

# **Culture and Society in a Colonial Context**

Leonard Woolf Memorial  
International Conference

18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> December 2004

University of Ruhuna  
Matara, Sri Lanka.

## **ABSTRACTS**

Cultural Center  
University of Ruhuna  
Matara, Sri Lanka

Institute of Population Health  
University of Ottawa  
Ottawa, Canada

Sri Lanka Studies Network

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## Message of the Coordinators.

We are extremely delighted for being able to organize the Leonard Woolf Memorial International Conference to mark the first centenary of his arrival in Sri Lanka. Woolf's arrival in Sri Lanka, as an assistant Government Agent to serve the Ceylon administrative service, on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1904, opened a new era of Sri Lankan literature. His writings, based on his own experiences in Ceylon, during the tenure as an Assistant Government Agent provided him rich inspiration of culture, society and the way of living of the people of the colonial Sri Lanka. His novel "Village in the Jungle" is not only the first ever Sri Lankan novel in English, but also a reflection of his pulse towards the sufferings, fear, vulnerability and marginalization of the *colonized* of the era, His inherent love to the common people and literature is further depicted by his resignation from Ceylon Civil Service in 1912, and his devotion for writing in his latter period of life.

The proposal of the Cultural Centre of the University of Ruhuna to hold a Leonard Woolf Memorial Conference was strongly supported by the Sri Lanka Studies Centre. Due to the collective and collaborative partnership of these institutions made within a short span of time, the University of Ruhuna was able to host this significant conference. Moreover, it is pleasing to note that this conference has been able to provide a platform for multiple studies based on colonial and postcolonial Sri Lanka by national and international scholars.

With regard to the international collaboration in this venture, the remarkable assistance extended by several institutions is praiseworthy. Among them, the financial assistance and academic support extended by the Institute of Population Health, University of Ottawa, Canada, Research for International Tobacco Control (RITC) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada and Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) are highly appreciated, without which this conference would not have become a reality. Furthermore, the twining linkage established between the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna and the Institute of Population Health, University of Ottawa has geared several academic programmes including staff trainings, collaborative research, workshops and conferences.

The Bloomsbury Circle of the United Kingdom formed by academic colleagues of Woolf during his time has extended great assistance since the initial stages of the conference. This collaboration will be further strengthened by forming a Leonard Woolf Foundation at the University of Ruhuna which aims at conserving places and documents related to Leonard Woolf. The cooperation extended by colleagues in national and international institutions, universities, government and non-governmental organizations deserves credit. Simultaneously, the academic and non-academic staff of the University of Ruhuna who equally shared the responsibility of organizing this conference is extremely appreciated.

Sarath Amarasinghe  
Jayantha Amarasinghe

Leonard Woolf Memorial International Conference



## ***Message from the Vice Chancellor***

It gives me great pleasure to send this message to the publication issued to mark the Leonard Woolf Memorial International Conference held at the University of Ruhuna on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2004. Leonard Woolf who arrived in Sri Lanka in 1904 had served as the Assistant Government Agent of the Hambantota District from 1908-1911. He had been a world acclaimed literary scholar, writer and critic and had written the famous masterpiece novel “The Village in the Jungle”, which shows the intimate touch he had with the villagers and his commendable grasp of their trying living conditions.

As a university emerging as a leader of higher education in Sri Lanka with a global perspective, I am happy and proud of the initiative taken by the Cultural Centre of the university in organizing this international conference in collaboration with the Institute of Population Health of University of Ottawa, Canada, and International Conference on Sri Lanka Studies.

The Leonard Woolf Memorial International Conference brings together academics, social scientists, scholars and literary luminaries from many countries including Canada, India, Thailand, Germany, Australia, Nigeria, and Ghana to deliberate on various issues and aspects under the theme “Culture and Society in a Colonial Context”. This conference will also add to the intellectual atmosphere and academic climate of the university and will help strengthen its international cooperation and forge new international links.

This conference became a reality due to the untiring efforts of the Organizing Committee, particularly Prof. Sarath Amarasinghe and Mr. Jayantha Amarasinghe and generous support and sponsorship from the Institute of Population Health of University of Ottawa, which I gratefully acknowledge.

While most cordially and warmly welcoming all the participants at the conference from home and abroad to the University of Ruhuna – the intellectual pulse and brain trust of the region, I wish them a rewarding and exciting stay at Ruhuna.

I wish the Leonard Woolf International conference every success!

**Professor Ranjith Senaratne**  
**Vice Chancellor**





## **Message from the Institute of Population Health, University of Ottawa, Canada**

On behalf of our research partners, i.e. the Research for International Tobacco Control (RITC) of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and our funder the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR), we extend very best wishes to all the presenters and participants in this significant international conference. It is through collaborative events of this kind that we have an opportunity to foster a global learning culture around development challenges and issues which impact us all. We also extend a very special thanks to our host, the faculty and staff of University of Ruhuna for their generosity and wonderful hospitality.

Carol Amaratunga,  
Interim Director  
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Woolf: The novelist versus diarist versus autobiographer

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The Portuguese and Dutch came to Ceylon with the gun and the Bible. The British came with the gun. Bible was brought in by the missionaries later. However many books written by Englishmen who were fascinated or disillusioned with the island were sprouted soon.

Woolf, lived in the early 20th Century belongs to the later category of writers but is reckoned as the best creative writer in English on Ceylon. His lesser known works of fiction are “Wise virgins”(1914) and Stories of the East ( 1916) . Non-fiction works include his “An autobiography of the years 1904—1911 “published in 1912. His years in the Civil Service of Ceylon range from 1904 to 1911 and hence these books were published after his return home in 1911. Out of the seven years spent here, three were spent in Jaffna, one in Kandyan areas and the last three years in Hambantota area whose jungle villages provided the experiences for “Village in the Jungle”. This book to use his own words was a symbol of “anti-imperialism which has been growing upon me more and more in my last years in Ceylon” and was lauded by famous writers like Arnold Toynbee and E.M.Forster. The jungle he found both fascinating & frightening. The incredibly rugged lives of the villagers fascinated and distressed him all the more. Most of all he got sensitized to the way in which colonialism and its machinery, especially the British system of justice and the cogs of imperialism as Fernando intensified this misery.

Yet he was a rigid servant of the British Government, and never flouted its rules. Despite the compassion he felt for the suffering villagers yet in his diaries he never criticized the bureaucratic regulations nor went out of the way to glorify the past of the subjugated race as some earlier diarists have done.

A book’s power rests not only on its literary brilliance but on its mental and moral ethos. This ethos springs from the author’s own thinking and perception. The ability to see things differently, to be neutral in issues, to be in empathy with the downtrodden, these make “Village in the Jungle’ a great book. As for the diary ,he saw to it that it remained a dry recording of the day to day activities of a State officer ,though an incisive reader would locate the seeds of the great novel in certain episodes and accounts recorded.

Key Words: Leonard Woolf; British Government; Colonialism; Creative writing; Autobiography

Leonard Woolf: A role model administrator for the day

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Leonard Wolf was an ideal administrator in the era of colonial Ceylon. In view of the dedication, competence, integrity and honesty he has shown in performing his duties as a civil servant and a judicial officer it is unarguable that he has set an example for today's civil administrative officers. Leonard Woolf was a man of principles despite of the pressures of the British Government and he still lives in memories of the people of Sri Lanka as a noble man.

Sri Lanka has surpassed the era of colonialism but its people are yet to achieve a sound system of civil administration which guarantees a dignified civil life with socio-economic development. Although Sri Lanka has an own system of government, some critique that Sri Lanka as a nation or a state failed to implement a sound and fair system of civil administration which is conducive for the guarantee of Human Rights.

In the current system of government, civil administrators are mere servants of political leaders whose decisions are based on political affiliations and favouritism. Today's civil administrators are seldom identified as implementers of government policy. In the present socio political context civil servant is being imaged as a feeble officer who is stooged to bribery and corruption and lack of integrity and independence. Despite numerous councils and committees introduced to depoliticise the civil administration system, politicization of government has become a menace in Sri Lanka.

Among many other reasons for current failure of social and economic justice for the people of Sri Lanka, lack of role models in the state system is it is clearly identifiable. Woolf as a state officer had courage, enthusiasm and dedication to fight against the ignorance, corruption and injustice of the system at the time for the well being of the people. Wolf becomes a role model civil administrator for the day in view of the integrity, dedication and independent he has demonstrated in performance of his duties as a civil servant of colonial Ceylon. This paper analyses the life of Leonard Woolf to identify the characteristics that portrays him as a role model for the today's administrator.

Key Words: Leonard Woolf; British Government; Politicization; Public administration; ; Human rights



## Leonard Woolf and imperialism

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His association with Virginia Stephen the novelist, both as his wife and as founders of the Hogarth Press, has tended to focus attention on Leonard Woolf's own novel, 'The Village in the Jungle', to the exclusion of his work with the Labour Research Department in London.

The novel is seen as a sympathetic account of people in an isolated village in the south-eastern dry zone of Sri Lanka who were administered by British civil servants such as himself. In that context he is seen as an enlightened person who gave body to British claims that they practiced a form of benevolent paternalism in the management of the countries they had colonized.

In his other books, as on 'International Government', 'The Future of Constantinople', 'The Framework of a Lasting Peace', and, especially in his study of 'Economic Imperialism' in Africa, Woolf gets at the nitty-gritty of the imperialist enterprise. He documents the greed that motivated European piracy of the resources of other peoples and analyses the 'patriotic histories' that Europeans constructed to justify such pillage, as well as the use made of myths of a 'higher' 'Christian civilization' to launch a further red-herring.

In the course of his analysis, however, Woolf betrays his own prejudices about the peoples whose victimization by Europeans he describes. That element in his work would throw some light on accounts of his attitudes as a colonial administrator in Sri Lanka

Key Words: Leonard Woolf; benevolent paternalism; Colonialism; Creative writing; Autobiography

## Leonard Sidney Woolf: An overview of his significant career in Ceylon [1904-1911]

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Leonard Sidney Woolf was born as the third of a nine children affluent Jewish family in London. The untimely death of Leonard's father Sidney Woolf Q.C. at the age of forty seven dragged the Woolf family into a difficult financial position. Leonard Woolf spent five years at Trinity College, Cambridge and later applied for the Eastern Civil Service. Woolf arrived in Ceylon as a cadet in the Ceylon Civil Service on 19th November 1904 and served for nearly three years in Jaffna as office assistant under two government agents and was appointed to the same position in Kandy in 1907. He was assistant government agent in Hambantota District from 1908 to 1911.

Leonard Woolf, though a part of the British administration, developed a sense of attachment to the people from the early days of his career. In Jaffna, Leonard learnt Tamil and liked the Tamil people. In Kandy he learnt Sinhalese and got to know and liked very much the Kandyan Sinhalese and later grew extremely fond of the place and of the people of Hambantota. Woolf pioneered in introducing the island's first mobile court house on petty matters, going towards the people at times the whole legal system of British was alien to the common folk in the villages of the down South. The wealth of experience he earned warranted him to end his short civil service career in the country which made him to reject the role of an 'imperialist ruling non – Europeans'

Woolf's official diaries and his recollections during early years are indispensable treasures on account of the status of the country during his stay in Ceylon. This paper attempts to re-examine the significant career of Leonard Woolf in Ceylon. (1904-1911) Re-examining Woolf in Ceylon is a sense a throwback to the past but in another sense a demonstration that Woolf although not an Englishman who identifies clearly the vagaries of imperialism and governance, that did not fit into the social fabric of our society, This paper examines Woolf: as an anthropologist, naturalist, civil servant -administrator, judicial officer and as a novelist. Woolf's writings demonstrate that he was an epoch-making, social anthropologist, who has had first hand knowledge of our then society.

Key Words: Leonard Woolf; Trinity College, Cambridge; Mobile court house;  
Naturalist; Social anthropologists

## Depiction of natives in colonial fiction: A postcolonial response

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Even though colonization has always happened in the world and it has taken different forms from time to time, it was in the Nineteenth Century that several European nations competed fiercely with one another to extend their colonial possessions. This was due to their increased awareness of the economic and political value of colonies. Britain already established much of its overseas empire by the beginning of the 19th century was the leading colonial power.

British presence in Africa and Asia led to an enormous growing body of English literature set in the colonies. Literature thus produced, known as colonial or colonialist literature often show colonization as legalistic undertaking of a land for the process of civilization of its natives. This is exemplified by Rudyard Kipling's statement that white man had the burden and responsibility of bringing the blessings of their superior civilization to the savages of the non-European world. Furthermore, their literature presents "natives" as weak, incomprehensible, illogical, and irrational and the Whiteman as the exact opposite of it.

Postcolonial literature, which sprang as a revolt against such writing deconstructs colonialist ideologies through their authentic and realistic presentation of natives. Among the postcolonial writers who undertook the responsibility of the process of deconstruction, the Nigerian novelist Chinua Achebe holds a prominent place. My intention is to examine in this paper, through his trilogy- *Things Fall Apart*, *No Longer at Ease* and *Arrow of God*, his response to colonial depiction of natives, the language of the postcolonial writer, and in common, colonial and postcolonial experiences.

Key Words: Chinua Achebe; Colonization; Postcolonial literature; Colonialist literature; Literary criticism

## Classical music in Jaffna during the British rule

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Music is an art for entertainment, relaxation, peace and divine worship. Carnatic music is the classical music form of Tamil, Malayali, Kannada and Telugu people. At present, the number classical music concerts conducted in Jaffna are few and they attract a limited audience. Identifying strategies to make the art more popular and assure its sustenance is important. This study analyzes the nature of the state of Carnatic music in Jaffna during the British rule in order to draw relevant lessons to be used in promoting future development of the art.

Carnatic music was practiced in India and Jaffna during the period. British rulers didn't interfere with the traditional and classical music forms of Tamils. The common rule in two countries provided opportunities for the promotion of music and other forms of fine arts in Sri Lanka. Indian estate workers introduced some new forms of folk arts in Sri Lanka. South Indian classical musicians too, had given recitals in Jaffna. Dance drama was the most popular form in Jaffna. It included elements of classical and folk music, dance, dramatic actions, conversations and narrations. A good number of professional artists for dance dramas from South India, who had organized themselves in to groups, were invited mostly by business proprietors. Most of the famous, contemporary classical musicians participated in dance dramas. A large number of educated and non educated people appreciated the dance drama due to its depth and simplicity.

The study recognizes the role of inter-country linkages during the British period as a factor promoting the development and popularization of fine arts including music and drama in Jaffna. Support for the classical forms from the business community led to increased popular appreciation. The need for greater interaction with Indian professional artists and creating a demand for classical music through understanding its role as an art and as a means of preserving cultural identities should be the key factors addressed in promoting and sustaining the music in Jaffna.

Key Words: Jaffna Society; Carnatic music; dance dramas; India-Lanka relations;  
Cultural identities

Colonialism: the origin of violence

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Colonialism brought both positive and negative effects to the people of the colonies. Positive effects enabled them carry out their functions effectively while the negative effects on the nations they ruled and their repercussion on the hitherto stable societies, should never be lost on the present generation. This is so because the present violence that has engulfed the World has its roots in colonialism. So brutal was the rule that those who advocated for independence were either gunned down or thrown into jail.

The violence we see now is the continuation of and if you like, the legacy of colonialism. Since colonial rule was reluctantly terminated, the North devised a clever way of perpetuating their authority over the colonies in a neo-colonialist form via the Britton Woods Institutions. Not only did they control and dictate the terms of trade, they negatively influenced the political systems. The Cold War was another way of sharing and protecting the spoils that were left after the developing countries achieved independence. Colonialism, imperialism and neo-colonialism have metamorphosed into globalization.

With Europe losing leverage over its colonial territories, the United States of America; the only superpower is an empire that refuses to listen to the Europeans and wages wars against weaker nations on all fronts. America has eroded the very power base of the United Nations Organizations-which it helped to establish and completely disregarded other rich nations of the World. She cries terror where there is no terror.

Cornered and with their backs to the wall, some irresponsible individuals and organizations are trying to hold the whole world captive by pushing their selfish and personal agenda under the guise of religion and sovereignty. The world could be a better place for us all if the affluent nations will desist from initiating violence by ensuring fair deal in trade, agriculture, industry and to allow people to determine a way they should be ruled nonviolently. Nonviolence is strength and not a weakness. The world will be rid of violence if the powerful nations will treat the smaller countries as human beings.

Key Words: Colonialism; Cold War; Violence; Britton Woods; Globalization

## Impact of colonization on the Sinhala poet

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There had been a number of transformations in the social fabric of Sri Lanka after the subjugation of the country to the British. The colonialists had transformed the simple subsistence economy to that of the merchant capitalism. It paved the way for an emergence of a new class structure in the Sri Lankan society leading to an emergence of an urban elite class and a middle class which handled the administration and service delivery. In this context, sons and daughters of privileged strata of new class structure were given an opportunity to obtain modern education in English. This marks the origin of new tradition of thought different from that of the traditional cultural way of thinking. Yet, this did not lead to complete extinction of the tradition. Pre-Capitalist social structure prevailed side by side with the modern structures in the same period and in the same geographical area causing the dual mentality of people of the country. Thus it divided the culture into two i.e. Oriental Stream and Occidental Stream. The mixing and integration of the two social worlds and two traditions of thought marked an invisible division at the cultural level. The objective of the present study is to examine the impacts of these transformations in the literature of Sinhala, particularly of the Sinhala poetry. The aforesaid duality of culture is observable in schools of poetry, from poet to poet and even within the poet himself. The 'Murder of God' (Deviyan Mereema), which is included in The "Paligeneema"(Collection of Short Stories and Free Verses) of G. B. Senanayake, the first free verse poet in Sinhala, reveals this crisis of dual mentality. It is more expressive in the creative works of Gunadasa Amarasekera and Mahagama Sekara. One can observe the extreme end of this trend in the creative works of the poets in the 1970s where mono-lingualism reigns prominence in various guises like parochial nationality, tradition, Fork literature, peoplism and the like.

Key Words: Colonization; Merchant capitalism; social structure; Poetry; Literary criticism

British capital, Ceylonese land, Indian labor: The imperialism and colonialism of evolution of tea plantations in Sri Lanka

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This paper attempts to provide an understanding about cultural and socio-economic characters of the Sri Lankan tea plantation system and its historical evolution to assess the impact of colonial hegemony within its broader socio-cultural and political context in Sri Lanka. The paper explores historical roots and their interrelationships that shape the present day strategically important issues in the Sri Lankan tea industry. While emphasizing the historical development of the sector within feudalistic and peasantry modes of production systems, the paper focuses on how the specific socio-economic changes emerged and their consequences, especially, that of labor relations. The paper also deals with (1) the specific patterns of strategy-control relationships within capital in terms of agency relationships and (2) how different social strata emerged within Ceylonese social formation during the period of colonisation.

This discussion explores a series of interrelated issues including; how land was acquired for plantations; the problem of an indigenous labour supply; how Indian Tamils became attached to the British Ceylonese plantations through what is known as an 'internal contract system'; how British mercantile capital dominated the productive capital in the British Ceylonese plantations and the articulation of non-plantation agricultural modes of production in plantation capitalism.

Key Words: Colonization ; Tea plantations; Modes of production; Social formation; Mercantile capital

## Monetary system in Sri Lanka at the time of Leonard Woolf

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Monetary system is the payment system prevailing in an economy at a given period of time. In Sri Lanka, the Nattukottai Chettiars introduced an informal system akin to banking during the Dutch period and their powers declined with establishment of British banks, and a dual monetary system as formal and informal emerged.

At the time of Leonard Woolf, a few foreign banks operating as commercial banks were called exchange banks as their business activities were concentrated in foreign trade than in domestic or development banking. They showed little interest in lending to Ceylonese businessmen particularly to rural clients. The rural clients, who were mainly poor therefore, turned toward informal money market to achieve their financial needs.

Leonard Woolf's "Village in the Jungle" very clearly explains the structural factors, actors and their roles and dynamics of the contemporary rural money market in Sri Lanka. Structure of the rural credit market is determined by factors such as, small size of loans, short borrowing periods and high risk of recovery. Clients were subjected to exorbitant interest rates. Landlessness, indebtedness, external shocks like severe drought, illness, lack of community leadership or problems of governance at village level and infrastructure facilities contribute to shape the market. Purpose of credit was more consumption oriented. Actors of money market consisted of rural clients [Silidu], professional money-lenders [Fernandu], semi- professional money lenders [Babehamy], and petty traders [Hasim]. The dynamics of whole rural society was determined through roles played by these money lenders. For example, in case of repayments, in addition to the financial interest rates, the client's lovely daughters or wives [Punchimanika] were also claimed by the money lenders at most of times.

The study found that the widened gap between formal and informal financial markets was a cause to create dual system with lack of inter-system interactions. This was the cause for increasing the poverty in economic, social and cultural spheres. This situation prevailed during the times of Leonard Woolf can be observed at present too. Policy makers should pay attention in narrowing the persistent and widened gap between formal and informal monetary systems and aim at eradicating the poverty.

Key Words: Monetary system; Exchange banks Rural credit; Poverty; Public policy



## Demise of an egalitarian economy under colonialism: A case of chena cultivation in Sri Lanka

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Modern European colonialism was the most extensive of the colonial rules in the human history. Among explanations on the distinctiveness of the European colonialism, the most common view is that it made a drastic effect on populations of the colonies. An attempt was made by the colonial rulers to maintain domination over the subject people in a way of constructing them as a degenerate type. There are diverse opinions about how colonial domination was effected. Some look at it as an attempt made by the European colonizers to transplant capitalism while others explain it by situating colonialism in the development discourse arguing that the general living conditions of the colonies improved under colonial rule and those colonies transformed from a primitive state to underdeveloped state during colonialism.

*Chena* (slash and burn cultivation) is a form of subsistence agriculture practiced in communal properties by the villagers. The practice continued in Sri Lanka since the earliest period as an integral part of the village livelihood system. Most of those communal lands were appropriated by the colonial state under the Crown Land Encroachment Ordinance of 1840. As a result, the villagers lost their lands which were critically important for sustainability of their livelihoods. In its absolute sense, chena cultivation was not a mere agricultural practice but rather an economy based on egalitarian principles. It was a collective activity where social differences were effaced in the process of production. There was no social exclusion in this economy and its egalitarian norms went beyond caste boundaries and gender differences.

The British imposed restrictions on *chena* cultivation by arguing that it as wasteful and primitive. They arrogantly denied or were simply unable to understand the importance of the practice in terms of rural food security. Although some colonial administrators as Leonard Woolf realized the social effects of the restrictions on *chena* cultivation, the perspectives continued through the British period and to the post colonial governments of Sri Lanka. This paper argues that the colonial rulers made a severe damage to the local economy and culture by restructuring them in the orientation of western modernity

Key Words: Colonialism; Subsistence agriculture; Livelihood systems ; Communal lands; Crown Land Encroachment Ordinance

## Child sexual abuse in Sri Lanka: A case study in Ranmuthugala Certified Girl's School

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The UN Declaration on Children's Rights as well as the constitution of Sri Lanka emphasizes the need of the responsibility for children's happy and comfortable lives. At present, however, "protecting children" from various abuses has become a great challenge than "providing opportunities" for their development. A look at the recent statistics on crimes clearly indicates that the child sexual abuse is an alarming social problem in the country. It has been reported that 66% out of all reported sexually abused cases in 2000 was child abuse cases.

This study aims to provide a scientific insight into the issue of child sexual abuse in Sri Lanka using a sample of girls from Rammuthugala Certified Girl's School. The major objective of this study is to examine root causes for child sexual abuse, which is incorporated with specific objectives i.e. to investigate the family background of sexually abused children, and to examine short-term consequences of abused children.

Previous studies reveal that child sexual abuse is largely seen among poor communities where family structure is more vulnerable to be broken. So, this study examined whether sexually abused children belong to so-called broken families. The study also attempted to understand the main cause(s) and how it behaves until the child is abused, the process of rehabilitation and anticipated problems in the process.

The study found that about 95% of the sample belongs to lower class and broken families. They are neglected and loss of love, affection, and attention at home. Parents' irresponsible behaviors have affected to their lives severely. Many children have been victimized to their own family members as father, step-father or uncle. Victimized children exhibit some extraordinary behavior as disobedient and aggressive in the rehabilitation period. In addition, specific behavioral problems as lesbian activities exist among some children. Whatever the harassments faced at home earlier, most of the girls prefer to go their homes again. This suggests that the family is the ideal place for children.

**Key Words:** Child sexual abuse; Children's Rights; Broken families; Rehabilitation Harassments

Jaffna: Coping with the problem of a surplus female population

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All violent conflict situations end up leaving behind a surplus female population. The ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka's northeast has contributed to the situation mainly due to two reasons. First, because the conflict has been a prolonged one; and second, because the average age of a Tamil militant cadre member has been significantly lower than would be the case in ordinary wars.

This situation has had two very different consequences. First, at one stage the LTTE itself started addressing this problem by recruiting the surplus females and turning them into fighting cadres. Some of its most ferocious fighters, including the suicide bombers, have come from these cadres. In the process, it has also brought about attitudinal changes within the LTTE which had initially evolved as a male bastion.

The second consequence has been more far reaching in its impact on the society at large. Based on interviews conducted during a visit to Jaffna, last July, the paper will discuss the long-term effects the surplus female population has had on the social and ethical mores of Jaffna society during the two decades of the ethnic conflict, resulting in some significant changes in outlook and social equations. It will also discuss the profile of the problem in the post-conflict phase, and the ways in which the civil society is seeking to address the same.

**Key Words:** Jaffna society; Post-conflict phase; Ethnic conflict; LTTE; Surplus females

## Opinion of health professionals as an alternative information source on abortion in Sri Lanka

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The wide availability of modern contraceptives or the restricted law on induced abortions in Sri Lanka do not prevent women seeking safe or unsafe abortion. The statistical picture of the levels of practice, the profile of abortion seekers, the determinants of induced abortion as highlighted by various sources of data, is unclear, conflicting and may be misleading.

This paper focuses on two interlinked aims. Firstly, it evaluates the reliability and validity of existing sources of data on induced abortion in relation to their particular concern of induced abortion. Secondly, it analyses the information on several aspects of induced abortion based on responses by the health professionals, who are directly involved with the cases of induced abortion. Opinion of reproductive health professionals is a highly reliable alternative to the information from other sources. Their opinions serve as a reasonable assessment about the existing situation, and give sound suggestions for future action.

The data for the present study were derived from a self-administered questionnaire filled by a group of reproductive health professionals in Colombo District of Sri Lanka. The World Health Organization technically and financially supported the survey. Eight categories of health professionals directly involved with cases of induced abortion were requested to respond to set questions. A majority of the questions was designed using the Likert scale. Questions were designed to identify the degree of their agreement on certain opinions, were focused on the profile of abortion seekers, reasons for seeking abortion, availability of abortion services, prevalence of abortion by types, consequences and preventive strategies.

It was found in the log linear analysis that the awareness of reproductive health professionals supported by the direct involvement with cases of induced abortion were better predictors on the responses on various aspects of induced abortion. This is particularly strong with regard to the availability of abortion services. However, some characteristics of the respondents may have had influenced on their opinions but their significance is less important.

**Key Words:** Research Methods; Induced abortion; Likert scale; Health professionals; Alternative information

## HIV/AIDS and risk behavior of youth in Sri Lanka

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There has been a growing global consensus about the spread of AIDS and its impacts on human beings. Available data proves that the epidemic is spreading at an alarming rate and gradually reaching the young generations. The transition of epidemic to younger generations will create additional burdens to countries by contracting their labor force, increasing cost of medical care, increasing number of orphanage children and increasing the risk of spread.

Epidemiological, cultural and socioeconomic approaches are used to explain the dynamics of AIDS as an epidemic. The epidemiological approach contends with immediate characteristics of an infected individual. The cultural approach considers the cultural factors that influence sexual and drug injecting norms and behavior. The socioeconomic approach, which is more critical in developing countries, explains the socioeconomic conditions that shape the behavior under the risky situations.

The economic impacts of AIDS are discussed basically in two contexts, individual and families and the national. However, the evaluation of impacts is complex at both the levels. The simplest way to measure the impacts is to estimate the cost of medical care and the loss of income. Estimated average medical costs per HIV case are US \$ 738 and US \$ 1400 in India and Indonesia respectively. This only include AIDS related illnesses, excluding any triple therapy, the cost of drugs which vary from US \$ 12000 to 15000. In Kenya it was estimated that by the year 2005, the Gross Domestic Product, (GDP), estimated to reduce by 14.5% owing to loss of manpower and cost involved in the provision of medical services for HIV infected persons.

The epidemic AIDS warns the mankind in general and demands a change in the life styles of new generations. This is because over 85% of HIV positive cases reported to have contaminated due to sexual activities. Numerous reasons cause the younger generations to be sexually active. These includes, easy access to phonographic literature and videos, loose family ties, breakdown of cultural value systems, expansion of sex industry, displacement and migration of populations, drug addiction and increasing women's employment.

Key Words: HIV/AIDS; Risk behavior of youth; Economic impacts; Medical costs; Life styles

## Measurement of national trends of tobacco and alcohol use by a low cost method

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National level information on trends, prevalence and attitudes are needed for organizations working to reduce harm from alcohol and other drugs. Lack of such information makes it difficult for prevention workers and policy makers to analyze the situation correctly and to take effective actions. Information on trends is important to establish the outcomes of actions taken so that if action is produces counterproductive results.

Only a few developing countries study prevalence and trends regularly. This is mainly due to the high cost of information collection. In this situation Alcohol and Drug Information Centre (ADIC) Sri Lanka conducts low cost “spot surveys” since 1998. The main objective of this survey is to identify the trends of alcohol and tobacco use, to observe the changes regarding attitudes on alcohol and tobacco use and to plan more effective drug prevention programs and to support in implementing policies relating to alcohol and tobacco use Under this study data collection takes place in six districts twice a year. 250 males of 15 years or above in each district are interviewed in a one survey round. In addition to that an extra district too is selected to carry out this survey in rotation. The survey generates knowledge on national trends and is important as no other surveys have been carried out continuously from 1998 to date.

The prevalence rate of alcohol and tobacco consumption during the period 1998 to 2003 in Sri Lanka has been identified. According the results in the year 2002 December the prevalence of alcohol and tobacco were 57.8 percent and 40.0 percent respectively. In addition knowledge and attitudes pertaining to alcohol use has been recorded. These factors vary according to the place and the age groups. The findings of these surveys are being used to address the community more effectively.

Trends of alcohol and tobacco use have been documented according to the types of alcohol and the age groups of the consumers. These results have been useful in planning future activities in relation to drug prevention and also to ascertain the risk areas. It has been helped to others interested in community as well as in health related policies

**Key Words:** Research methods, Tobacco; Alcohol; Prevention programs; Data collection

## Risk taking behavior: A study of youth in North Eastern India

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In India available literature on risk taking behavior among youths are mainly based on special groups of youths or small sample of youths in limited geographical locations. However, MOHFW, Country paper 1998, indicated that in the North Eastern states, substance abuse among youth has become a major problem threatening the social fabric and structure of the society. In this context present paper aims to examine extent of subsistence uses as well as correlates of such behavior among the youths of North Eastern states of India.

This study focuses on the experiences of seven North Eastern states namely, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, using data from National Family Health Survey II (1998-99). NFHS II collected information on certain aspects of lifestyle indicators like who chew pan masala or tobacco, drink alcohol, or smoke. Present study considers all three substances that have been considered as risk behavior since all have definite detrimental effects on health. Any household members aged within 15 to 24 years are considered as youth. Both bivariate and multivariate (Logistic Regression) techniques were employed in the analysis.

Multivariate analysis indicates that any type of substance use is considerably much higher in the states like Mizoram, Nagaland and Meghalaya for both sexes. However, higher proportions of male were engaged in risk behavior than their counterparts in all these states. From logistic regression analysis it could be found that age, sex, marital status, educational and occupational status, place of residence, household SLI, religion and ethnicity has significant association with risk taking behavior. A significant positive association with suffering from Asthma and indulging such risk behavior is indicated.

Paper concludes that risk-taking behavior is not a random behavior of the youths. It depends on the socio cultural atmosphere of the respondents. To cope up with this problem government should promote more effective IEC against such risk behaviors.

**Key Words** Risk behavior of youth; tobacco; India; Northeastern states; Socio cultural atmosphere

## Violence, community and the health of the individual

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Violence is endemic and integral parts of life in the modern World. It has been argued that the only way out of the ingrained violence is to come out of modernity itself. The colonial imposition of institutions has been seen as suppressing the native institutional arrangements. The state has been seen, as one of the supreme manifestations of such institutional arrangement of modernity and therefore, it was found necessary that a critique of the state too is launched. In such an ensemble of intellectual trajectories, discourse regarding violence in some of the crucial areas of lives of the individual too has been deeply influenced.

An intellectual history of the idea of violence in modern times can, however, show that while modernity obviously has enlarged the dimension of violence by expanding human contacts and activity at a global level, it has also proposed the solution to violence created out of such contacts. The moral universe that, for example, Kant proposes and which sustains the modern institutions have been and can become the instrument of resolution of many conflicts that has been shown to us as unsolvable in the modern frame.

The idea of equality and responsibility, for example, are two very important notions that have been associated with the modern consciousness and in this I would argue that one of the founding fathers of the modern consciousness- Immanuel Kant -had argued quite forcefully that a moral universe which respect variety and responsibility would be what would sustain a civil world of modernity.

I shall try and locate two very powerful debates in the contemporary south Asian society in this frame and argue that in cases such the acts of violence against women in India and violence against the knowledge system in Sri Lanka. I would argue that it is modernity that we should hold on to in our efforts to come out of the circle of violence. One argument that I would try and posit is the individual health, so crucial for the younger generation, depends much on such institutions rather than the institutions that the post colonialists and critics of modernity would argue.

Key Words Violence; Knowledge systems; Modernity; Intellectual trajectories; Society



## Youth risk behavior: A response to a bleak horizon?

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The study examines policies of successive governments in the post independence period for their implications for youth. The era of welfare oriented policies triggered remarkable social progress within a limited economic framework that earned recognition as an Asian model of development. The serious imbalances it created however, when achievements in education and health failed to be matched with economic growth were in part responsible for the tensions that erupted in youth insurrection.

The economic turnaround that followed with the more open economic policies provided opportunities for youth aspirations to be fulfilled. The door however had been effectively shut for youth owing to the failure to put in place policies that would equip youth for the challenges of that era. Specifically the limitations in language skills and the failure to diversify the streams of education deterred youth from meeting the challenges of the new economic policies.

Ethnic tensions that arose at this time fueled youth participation in disruptive behavior could be a response to what they perceive as a bleak horizon that holds no future stability- risk behavior that could be triggering chronic depilating and long term illness and disease. It appears that neither the social structures of family and community and responsible citizenry nor the health care system as they currently function have the capacity to meet the emerging critical needs of youth.

**Key Words** Risk behavior of youth; welfare oriented policies; social structures; emerging needs; youth aspirations

## Drug Use among young women

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Women constituted 52% of the Sri Lanka population. The role of Sri Lankan women is fast changing due to various social and economic forces. Presently drug use and acceptance among women is increasing in Sri Lanka. Their involvement is mainly as small and large-scale drug trafficking and selling.

This study was conducted to assess the drug related issues among imprisoned female drug dependents using a non-probable sample of 37 female heroin users imprisoned at Welikada Prison in the year 2000. The sample of the survey represented 25% female narcotic offenders including those remanded and imprisoned at the female ward. A pre-tested questionnaire in Sinhala Language was used for data collection.

Of the females studied 92% were residents of Colombo and its suburbs. Most of the women came from unstable family backgrounds and generally from economically poor social strata. Half of them (52%) were aged between 31-40 years and 43% were between 21-30 years. Only a third (35%) of the women were married. A quarter (24%) of the females had never been to school.

Half of them (51%) were engaged in commercial sex work. 19% of the sample were street level heroin vendors. 22% of the women were into petty businesses such as selling vegetables, flowers and fruits. Many of them were multiple drug users. 27% of the females had started on heroin between 16-20 years of age and 11% had started below 15 years of age. All of them were regular heroin users. The common method of heroin administration was inhaling (Chinese method). However, 5% had experimented with intravenous drug use. Of the sample, 16% had been treated for sexually transmitted diseases (STD). None had taken drug treatment at a residential treatment facility.

Most of the women have started their drug use in very young age. Many have a poor knowledge of services available for drug dependent persons. Their treatment seeking behavior is inadequate. The findings of the study would be more applicable to female heroin users living in Colombo and Suburbs.

**Key Words** Drug use; Drug trafficking; Women; Sexually transmitted diseases Drug treatment

## Drug demand reduction project in the estate sector

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Alcohol use among the estate labour is high for both males and females. Statistics as early as 1993 indicate that 18% of the total household income is spent on alcohol. At present this figure is around 30 - 35 %. Availability of alcohol is high and it varies from commercial alcohol to illegal brews and is freely available at a range of prices, which makes it affordable to persons of all income groups.

Over the last decade alcohol has been identified as a problem in this sector both by the management and the workers. Discipline among the work force, incidents of violence, absenteeism and fluctuations in the labour outturn, indebtedness of the workers, decreasing health conditions among adults and children are some of the problems which are visible. Low birth weight, a high incident of malnutrition among infants and children, anaemia among pregnant mothers is also visible. In spite of the large amount of funds invested in this sector by health authorities and development organizations, in comparison to other tea producing countries such as Kenya and India, Sri Lanka has shown lowest productivity and the highest cost of production. It is believed that alcohol has contributed to this situation.

In 1995, Alcohol and Drug Information Center (ADIC - Sri Lanka) initiated a pilot project to reduce the alcohol related harm in the estates sector. After one year of community-based interventions, the project planners compared the baseline data with the data of the evaluation survey. It was found that the aggregate consumption of alcohol had reduced with hardly any youth initiating while some users had quit and others reducing the frequency of usage. The demand for alcohol reduced and as a result the number of outlets reduced from 15 to 3 in one division and in the other from 13 to 5.

There was a marked reduction in the number of incidents of violence with it changing from July 1996 to June 1998. During this period, improvements in labour turnout, an improvement in the status of women and the wellbeing of the children was observed.

**Key Words** Drug use; Alcohol; Women; community-based interventions; Violence; Labor productivity

## Pride and prejudice: 20th Century views of the Sri Lankan past

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After gaining political independence in 1948, attempts were made to investigate the culture and identity of the society, which had not been evaluated within their inherited dimensions during the colonial power. The resistance created against the colonizer's view of the 'voiceless, sensual, female, despotic, irrational and backward' character of the cultures in the colonies is apparent in post-independence archaeology in Sri Lanka. The search for the existence of indigenous cultures, the growth of full-scale literacy, deeper consideration of the historical tradition of paintings and sculptures and monumental architecture can collectively be viewed as an essential outgrowth of post-independence scholarship.

The post-independence society of Sri Lanka has also inspired some historians and archaeologists to nourish the growing nationalistic nation-state ideology. At the same time it found a historical theme of '*aryanization*' from the historical chronicles to explain the past. *Aryanization* is described in the chronicles as a substantial population migration from the northern part of India to Sri Lanka during the mid-first millennium BCE. It was also a historical attempt to articulate a story relating to the affiliation between Sinhala identity and a white skinned race, which is believed to have had an inheritance of racial purity.

The consolidation of the nationalistic ideology of Sri Lanka, as opposed to the colonial domination of nearly 350 years, was an important internally generated social dynamic during the first half of the 20th Century. This is reflected in a number of different socio-cultural perspectives (literature, religious discourse etc.). Among some Sri Lankan intellectuals, the archaeological heritage regardless of their spatial and temporal dimensions of particular ruins, became an important tool to push the boundaries of a nation far back in time long before colonization and also provided an anchor to the social psyche to rely on the idea of a more glorious past.

Key Words: Colonial power; Aryanization ; Socio-cultural perspectives ; Indigenous cultures; Historical traditions

Gama: what's in a name?

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This presentation intends to look at the changes that 'Sinhala Gama' (commonly translated as village) experienced in mid-eighteenth century in a colonial context. It is based on findings from the archives of the Dutch East-India Company, particularly, land registers known as Tombos, on peasant social formations of Western Sri Lanka. Two issues are mainly addressed: meaning of 'gama' in the horizon of peasant life; meaning of the colonial intervention in the long-term patterns of the peasant. The particular period and the focus of the intervention are highly justified for two reasons. 1) This period has been sadly overlooked in the dominant paradigm of social history. 2) The social changes in the colonial context have not been explained in terms of a deep penetration into the village level social relations from a historical perspective.

I locate this intervention against the backdrop of some dominant discourses. Firstly, there is the dominant Sinhala urban middle class discourse, where 'gama' is a fantasized object (in Jaques Lacan's sense). This is reproduced in artistic productions (Sinhala literature, popular songs, films, teledramas, etc.), post-colonial development discourse (which is rigorously reproduced by the rural development drive of the present government.), intellectual constructions such as Jathika chintanaya, consumer culture of the urban middle class (gama and gemikama –villageness- have major symbolic power on the urban consumer which is being effectively used by the merchant), etc. The life space of the peasant which actually exists, has given an opportunity to the urban subject to view his fantasy as a true-world. Secondly, there are number of scholarly discourses, of which Gananath Obeyesekere (Land Tenure in Village Ceylon, Cambridge, 1967), Ralph Pieris (Sinhalese Social Organisation, Colombo, 1956) and HW Codrington (Ancient Land Tenure and Revenue in Ceylon, Colombo, 1938) are looked at in this intervention. I argue that my findings demand thorough re-evaluation of these scholarly discourses while they open new horizons to deconstruct texts that reproduce the fantasized gama.

Key Words: Colonial intervention; Social relations; Deconstructions; Social formations; Villages;

## Socio-cultural similarities of mythologies: A study based on “Sun and Moon” cult

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Myths along with religion were said to be a mode of human expression of the earlier state of civilization when humans were thought to be more ignorant of rationality and reasoning. One important theory is the relation of myth to ones culture and history and the development of systematic discipline. Myths has since then been entwined with many other studies and fields such as anthropology, history, psychology, religion and political sciences.

The beauty of language is exemplified in the narration of many myths. The language of mythology has long been studied by scholars. Myths are the tool which gives us deeper insight to human thought. Mythology portrays in a kind of symbolic communication the happenings and presumptions of a culture. Myths were a matter of human communication and set the standard for everyday living. Belonging to a community as a whole, it is a clear expression of man’s thoughts beliefs and an answer to the questions of man’s social life. They are the source of rituals and cultural traditions of these societies, and are then formed as a continuing thought. For the people, these myths are a way of thought, a way of learning a way of living.

All cultures inevitably had to deal with the issue of “how did we get here?” To answer this pressing question, the people invented stories that reflect the values, morals, and norms of their individual societies. When one examines these stories, one can gain insight into what these cultures were like.

The objective of this study is to discuss about the similarities of sun and moon cult in Sri Lankan, Indian, Japanese and African cultures. Sun and moon worship was one of the earliest practices of man. This worship is a main part of the myth in the cultures selected for this study. The sun was adored by the primitive people and is still worshipped to-day in some countries. The sun has always had a preponderant role among the above mentioned deities, and the cult is still highly developed even today especially in India and Japan. Sun and Moon are associated with fertility, motherhood, joy, strength, labor, heat and joy. They were also regarded as symbols of protection.

**Key Words:** Civilizations; Mythology; Human thought; Symbolic communication; Sun and Moon cult

## Human errors in traffic accidents

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Road trauma and traffic accidents are a global problem. A total number of 1.26 million die annually by the road accidents in the world and of these 87% of the fatal accidents occur in developing countries. When compared to the all death by injuries including war, road death accidents account for more than 23 percent of all deaths globally. In Sri Lanka it is a menace, and has become a national tragedy. The numbers of traffic accidents have been steadily increasing because of the large number of vehicles and also the poor condition of the roads in Sri Lanka. Behavioral characteristics of the drivers and pedestrians also contribute to high incidence of the road accidents. Further, it will provide all these human factors compare with the physical environment. This paper discusses the trends in traffic accidents, actual casual factors and also the behavior of motorists and pedestrians.

**Key Words:** Traffic accidents; Trauma; Human factors; Pedestrians; Physical environment

## Martin Wickramasinghe as a pioneer cultural anthropologist in Sri Lanka

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Martin Wickramasinghe is a well known writer in Sri Lanka. Although, many recognize him as a novelist and a short story writer, his writings spans across many areas such as basic biology, Buddhism, evolution, history, literature and politics. A careful look at his writings leads to identify him as a pioneer cultural anthropologist in Sri Lanka.

Analysis of contents of the writer's monographs reveals that more than 70 percent of them can be considered as biological and anthropological readings. From those writings he made an attempt to portray the nature of Sinhalese society and its origins. At the time of his early writings, teaching of similar subjects at the university level was not conducted. Wickramasinghe, as a self learner of the emerging subjects through reading applied the concepts and analyzed the literary sources. His writings can be considered as a pioneering effort in introducing these subjects to the masses of Sri Lankans.

He tried to explain the origin of Sinhalese culture. He says that the flourishing of Sinhalese culture began with building of the first tank (wewa) in the period of King Pandukabhaya. According to him the concept of tank and agriculture were integral parts of the Sinhalese culture and concretized that culture by the Buddhist civilization.

When explaining Sinhalese culture he pays attention to cultural diffusion. Particularly customs, rituals, magic and also some material things such as canoe (Kolle Oruwa) that is used in Sri Lankan fisherman has come from various islands of Atlantic Ocean. His views about 'pure Sinhalese culture' is however, challengeable. When taken into account of his theory of cultural diffusion.

Key Words: Sinhalese culture; Cultural anthropology; Martin Wickramasinghe; Education; Tank building



## The effect of social intervention in learning with computer

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There is a growing interest of using computer-based educational software in Sri Lanka. However, the most effective mode to use these promising interactive multimedia elements in learning is yet to be identified.

Learning is a complex cognitive process that involves constructing new knowledge with the help of existing knowledge. Cognitive information processing and learning in groups catalyse each other while cognitive and social perspectives on learning are both fundamentally important and complement each other. When the student alone cannot confront a new situation the difficulty can be overcome with the help of more experienced partners such as teachers, parents and peers. This process is called social intervention.

This study examines how social intervention affects on learning in a computer-based learning setting. The software used in this study was ANGEL (A Non-linear Geometry Environment for Learning) which presents web-based instructions to learn solving proof-type geometry problems through problem familiarization with worked examples.

Six Australian high school students solved proof-type geometry problems presented in ANGEL in pairs in a two-hour problem-solving session. Students were instructed to use a workbook for solving problems and to discuss the solution process with the partner before and after obtaining assistance from ANGEL. Data were collected in the forms of: student verbalization of the solution process, observation of problem-solving attempts, and written workings in the workbook. Students were interviewed on their acceptance of ANGEL as a learning tool. The qualitative data analysis showed that the students extensively utilized social intervention in addition to cognitive intervention provided in ANGEL. Students stated that working in pairs was useful for the success in problem solving. The findings suggest that learning with electronic instructions is less effective. Social interventions are needed for meaningful learning.

**Key Words:** Education; Teaching methods; Geometry; Computer-Aided Learning; Social interventions

## Teaching 'chemical equilibrium' with multiple representations

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Chemical equilibrium is a fundamental concept in general chemistry, but its dynamic and abstract nature creates difficulties in developing students' conceptual understanding. Although, teachers often use concrete representations to explain this concept, researchers assert that promoting the construction of deeper understanding of molecular processes through computer-based synchronised multiple representations such as videos, animated reactions and dynamic graphs can be very effective. This paper describes the teaching of 'chemical equilibrium' using concrete and computer-based multiple representations.

This Study focused on developing teaching strategies using different combinations of computer-based multiple external representations (MERs), analogies, simulations and hands-on activities. Developed teaching strategy was evaluated using two linked studies that were designed with five experienced chemistry teachers, eight pre-service science teachers and sixty, year-eleven chemistry students. The first study used a demonstration of a module from SMV: CHEM, a standard chemistry teaching software while familiar analogies, simulations, hands-on observation coupled with computer-based MERs were used as teaching strategies in the second study. Classroom observations, students' attitudes towards lessons, pre-service teachers' reflections and interviews were used to evaluate the compare the success of two modes of instructions.

It was found that in the standard practice, classroom teachers let students use the software with little instructions. Although the students appreciate this form of learning support they had difficulties in accessing the rich information that was also available. These results may be attributed to cognitive load created by synchronous use of three-levelled representations of SMV:CHEM, and the lack of intervention by teachers. In contrast, the MERs had a more positive impact on students and pre-service teachers' professional development. The findings have implications for improving the teaching and learning of chemistry, and the designing of chemical education software.

**Key Words:** Education; Teaching methods; Chemistry; Computer-Aided Learning; Professional development

How the pre-service teachers' cultural background impact on their knowledge organization: A comparative study: with reference to Sri Lanka and Australia

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This comparative study was conducted to investigate how student teachers' cultural background impact their knowledge organization about effective teaching during the practicum (student teaching) period of their teacher preparation programs in post colonial Sri Lanka and Australia. In order to explore their knowledge organisation two tools were combined; concept maps and structured interviews. There were twelve participants both from Sri Lanka and Australia, involved in this study. Participants were asked to draw concepts maps of effective teaching three times: prior to beginning their practicum period, in the middle of the practicum, and end of the practicum. Participants were interviewed shortly after they drew their concept maps. These interviews were audio recorded. Based on the concept maps and interviews data multiple case studies were developed. The results of all case studies were used to interpret how student teachers' cultural backgrounds impact their knowledge organizational structures. Results of this study show student teachers' cultural background has a strong impact on their knowledge organizational patterns. The conclusions were used for recommendations for developing Sri Lankan teacher education and directions for further research.

Key Words: Education; Cultural background; Professional development  
Organizational patterns; Case studies

## A Room of One's Own for Gajaman Nona

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Virginia Woolf's *Room of One's Own* was a key text in the Western women's movement as Western women shed themselves of the strait jacket of Victorianism. Some of its intellectual outcomes have been exported as a universal description of the general lot of women everywhere including of Sri Lankan women. This universalizing Western feminist discourse has been challenged within the last decade on empirical and theoretical grounds by non Western women writers. Sri Lanka in contrast has seen in some quarters the continuation of an imitative, mechanical and numbing Western discourse.

The women's situation in Sri Lanka however was different not only from Victorian Britain, but also from the particular Western historic situation in general. Sinhalese women generally were noted to have had more equality in previous centuries than their then counterparts in the Western world. This different independent trajectory is revealed for example in Sinhalese women's pilgrim's travelogues of the 14th century as found in manuscripts at the British Library (located incidentally in Bloomsbury). It is reflected in the social life of Sinhalese Buddhist women in general which was less unequal than in parallel Christian societies, a trait they share with their Theravada sisters in South East Asia.

A good exemplar of the different trajectory of Sinhalese women is seen in Gajaman Nona, a Sinhalese writer of the 18th century Ruhuna. She indeed had a room of her own. In this paper, Gajaman Nona's independent views and literature are discussed and briefly contrasted and compared with those of Bloomsbury's Virginia.

Key Words: Cultural backgrounds; Poetry; Sinhalese women; Literary criticism; Gajaman Nona; Ruhuna

Impressions of Sri Lanka: Fiction of Yasmine Goonerathne, Chandani Lokugé and Karen Roberts

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Sri Lankan writers have written fiction in English that have got published in Sri Lanka and abroad from the beginning of the twentieth century. However most of these novels have not got the due critical acclaim. During the past two decades several Sri Lankan expatriate writers have been able secure international acclaim for their fiction. These novels depict many Sri Lankan experiences and have become more popular than fiction written by Sri Lankan writers, whose works also delineate similar issues.

This paper concentrates on Yasmine Goonerathne's *A Change of Skies* and *Pleasures of Conquest*, Chandani Lokuge's *If The Moon Smiles* and Karen Robert's *July*. The depiction of Sri Lanka in these novels will be critically reviewed and the limitations of insights that are presented in the novels will be identified. It will also raise the issue to what extent expatriate writers could be considered authorities in continental affairs. The dynamics behind the writers' re-presentation of a country that was once their home and why Sri Lankan expatriate writers have won a large local and international readership will also discussed.

Key Words: Expatriate writers; Literary criticism; Fiction; Sri Lankan experiences; Re-presentation

## From Inheritance to The Dividing Line: Jean Arasanayagam's quest for identity

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According to Bell Hooks "Within any situation of colonization, domination, the oppressed, the exploited develop various styles of relating, talking one way to one another, talking another way to those who have power to oppress and dominate, talking in a way that allows one to be understood by someone who does not know your way of speaking, your language..." The need to give voice and the need to find voice have been one of the biggest obstacles faced by the Postcolonial writers. In this light, writers of the caliber of Jean Arasanayagam are faced with a dual task. One, being the attempt to understand one's fragile affiliation with the colonizer and the other focuses on cultural alienation within the writer's adopted culture.

This paper will investigate using Jean Arasanayagam's novels, *Inheritance* and *The Dividing Line*, how do the characters that the author gives voice to find roots in a complex society where issues of nationalism are discussed side by side with hybridity and even marginalization?

Key Words:; Literary criticism; Fiction; Nationalism; Colonization; Postcolonial writers

Sri Lanka and Bloomsbury in early 20th Century and early 21st Century: An excursion into colonial transactions

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Leonard Woolf together with his wife Virginia were members of the influential Bloomsbury group that in the first half of the 20th century had a major impact on British intellectual life . Many of them had met at the beginning of the century at Cambridge. The group, meeting later in the Bloomsbury area of Central London had impacts on different fields varying from the literary and artistic to economic theory and psychology. Their members included some of the great names of 20th century Britain. Virginia Woolf spoke from a women's point of view while Leonard was considered sympathetic to the colonized. Sri Lanka, especially Ruhuna had a place in Leonard's mind.

But a century after the beginnings of the group in Cambridge, there have been many changes not only in Sri Lanka and in the area of Bloomsbury, but also in global relations. This has occurred both in the social and intellectual landscapes. The present paper traces the changes in the two realms, in Bloomsbury and Sri Lanka. This is done partly by participant observation, the author apart from Sri Lankan experience having interacted with the Bloomsbury's geographical and intellectual haunts for nearly 30 years.

Bloomsbury today is not the mono cultural realm at the times of the Group. The ethnic, cultural and intellectual mixture has changed with especially Asian (meaning South Asian) inroads into university, arts, social comment, and middle class life in general including in restaurant life! In contrast, one has seen in Sri Lanka a tendency in the opposite direction, in the emergence of a unique trivial strand of dependent intellectual life where the local is denigrated. In this colonized subculture, key ideas seem to come second hand, late and garbled from the West to be accepted unconditionally. This has given rise to a particular anti-national school unique in the post-colonial world. The paper describes the broad intellectual and social outlines of this unique school. This intellectual subculture contrasts itself with both the old Bloomsbury and the lively independence of the new Asian influenced Bloomsbury, both of which sees South Asia with positive eyes. The new Bloomsbury Asians exult in the global shift towards Asia now occurring and await it positively. This contrasts itself with the colonized anti-national school's denigration of the Asian.

Key Words: Intellectual subculture; Bloomsbury; Leonard Woolf; South Asia  
Participant observation

The present socio-economic and political culture and the myth of English as an access to social equality in post-colonial Sri Lanka

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This study investigates the myth of the English language as an access to equality in the post-colonial era in the present socio-economic-political culture in Sri Lanka. This is a literature-oriented research study based on the current state of English language in Sri Lanka and the role of English language education, in facilitating the process of poverty reduction and the promotion of equality. The researcher attempts to clarify the opinions, biases, presuppositions and interpretations of the existing socio-economic and political culture in relation to English as a language of opportunities and equality.

The analysis reveals the dominant power of English as a global language, and the inequality in relation to access and allocation of public resources in diverse communities. Furthermore, it exposes recent proposals and accountabilities of the government on the elimination of poverty and the myth about English language as a panacea. The majority of the Sri Lankans hold the view that English, as a universal language is vital not only for lucrative local or foreign employment opportunities, but also for equal social standing. The findings reveal that while the affluent parents clamor for international or foreign schooling to secure better prospects for their children, the government faces increasing pressures to fulfill the demands of the majority of low-income parents whose children belong to the state school system. It seems the access to equal opportunities, to learn English, has created a social gap between the elite and the low-income communities. Thus the government contemplates establishing English as the medium of instruction and a compulsory subject.

Conclusions could be drawn that the common use of English, the initiation of the language policy in education and the expectations of the masses could all be at odds. Thus this myth of English as a language of opportunities needs to be urgently addressed if the expected socio-economic-political and national goals of elimination of poverty and promotion of equity are to be achieved in Sri Lanka.

Key Words: English language learning; Poverty; Equity; Global language; Sri Lanka



Reinvention of nationalism and reconditioning of youth in Sri Lanka during 21st century

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The fifty year period of independent Sri Lanka is very short but sufficient to reflect upon performance and achievements in achieving harmony in the plural society. The social capital formation remained the greatest challenge during this period. It gets manifestation through the long process of the evolution of nationalism in the island-nation.

The existing literature on nationalism in Sri Lanka can be regrouped into three sets. First set of literature is intended to generate harmony and unity in the society and, thus, it is an attempt to describe and use the existing theoretical-conceptual framework of nationalism to understand the social reality in Sri Lankan society. The second set has some ulterior motives for perpetuating dominance of a particular section of the society and, thus evolved some vague categories of social analysis and thereby making the circumstances more confusing which may create tyranny of an idea. Third set of literature uses the existing categories to analyze the situation in order to search certain new categories even at the cost of rejection of or may denounce the existing ones.

Attempts are made in the paper to analyze all the above aspects. It concludes that nation-state has been under stress and nationalism could not get required cohesive manifestation during the last century. The state-nation society failed to transform into a nation-state through the mechanism of State. Such a situation has mobilized the youth to adopt extra-constitutional means for resolving their problems and, thus, youths in all the communities could not get the creative direction. Different stages of peace talks and constitutional reform package during the last decade are efforts for establishing durable peace leading to prosperity in the island-society. The paper explains that the conventional forms of nationalism and nation-state are not applicable in Sri Lankan situation and attempts to rediscover the Sri Lanka and reinvent the nationalism in which sensitivities of all the communities could be incorporated and nationalism could be a force of creative orientation and socialization of the youths who are having altogether different perceptions and problems.

Key Words: Nationalism; Colonialism; Socialization; Communal harmony; Constitutional reform

The effect of culture and dominating patterns on gender in conflict transformation

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The paper aims to look at the effect of culture and dominatory patterns on the female gender and how it has brought about violence against women over time. Culture is a particular way of intellectual development, and pattern of assumptions about life, its realities, requirements and intrinsic or accompanying values and norms. It is argued in the paper that the notion of culture is itself a cultural construct and a relatively recent one. While culture has power as its goal and it is dependent on it. Domination is seen to represent the kind of relationship that most people in most cultures readily associate with the word power.

Violence the harmful and destructive exercise of power over others is both the means and outcome of domination. While gender is viewed by culture as the attribute associated with been male or female, the paper views gender as a set of learned behaviors shaped by expectations which stem from the idea that certain qualities, behaviors, needs and roles are natural and desirable for women. This been so makes gender a critical element of power and inequality.

Women's gender roles are generally accorded less political, economic and cultural values than those of men, and the oppression of women is often justified in terms of culture. In this paper, the challenges of women in conflict situations are discussed and the need for gender mainstreaming in societies affected by conflict highlighted. Types of violence against women was explored and the needs to stop violence against women, urging the government to swing into the full implementation of Resolution 1325 and all its additional protocols, and support the campaign to stop violence against women.

Key Words: Gender; Conflict transformation; Violence; Inequality; Culture

The causes and effects of political violence towards the behavior of university students

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Political violence has become a major problem in the body politics of Sri Lanka during the post-independence period. Consequently, the country has experienced with two insurrections in the form of left wing insurrections as well as ethnic insurrections from the early 1970s. The April Insurrection of 1971 and the insurrection from 1987 to 1989 were based on the Sinhalese youth represented left-wing insurrections in the country. The guerrilla warfare along with terrorism based on the Tamil youth represented the ethnic insurrection in Sri Lanka. The two left-wing insurrections were waged by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) or the People's Liberation Front under the leadership of Rohana Wijeweera an ex student from the University of Lumumba in Russia. The ethnic insurrections have been waged by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) under the leadership of V. Prabhakaran. The role of Sinhalese and Tamil university students has been significant in the left wing and ethnic insurrections. Consequently, the impact of political violence on the university students as well as the system is significant.

The main objective of this study is to examine and analyse the causes that have contributed to the enrolment of university students in violence movements and the impact of insurrections particularly left-wing insurrections on their political behavior. More specifically, the study focuses on the causes that draw university student towards left-wing insurrections and their impacts on the behavior of university students in Sri Lanka. This is an empirical study base on secondary sources, observations and empirical experience.

The study is presented in five major parts. The first part deals with the causes and pattern of political violence in Sri Lanka. The second part examines the nature of the participation of students in the insurrection, while the third part deals with the impact of political violence towards university students. The fourth part examines the response of the governments while the final part will present the conclusions.

Key Words: University students; Political violence; JVP; Insurrection; LTTE

## Development and conservation issues of the Deduru Oya River Basin in Sri Lanka

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Resources management, development and conservation practices of Deduruoya river basin is coming under the national policy framework and national legislative framework in Sri Lanka. Importance of the resources management, development and conservation practices are depending on major key factors. Such as population pressure on resource base, wasteful resources exploitation, and rapid depletion of resource base with high environmental pollution.

Sri Lanka is one of the few developing countries, which had shown concerns about environmental protection, management and development for a long period. National Environmental Act No.47 of 1980 provides conservation and development guidelines for natural resources including water, forest, flora and fauna in the country. Sri Lanka's biological resources are of global significance due to the high rate of endemism.

Sri Lanka's government functions under a parliament, a strong Executive Presidency and a presidential appointed cabinet. Government institutions exercise policy planning, management, enforcement of legislation and administration. Therefore, existing conservation and development issues need to address under the above central administration process. All conservation and development issues must focus on national objectives such as food security, environmental protection, sustainable resources use, equity of resources allocation, improvements of living standards and etc. At present there is no basin wise laws and regulations and therefore, development and conservation issues can address only by multi sectoral and integrated perspective with using existing national level policies and legislations. At the central government level, there are duplications of management functions among different public sector institutions, which are responsible for enforcement of legislation, and inconsistencies exist.

This paper examines existing legislative background for the purpose of development and conservation practices of Deduruoya River basin and potential development options and constraints for the North Western region in Sri Lanka.

**Key Words:** Natural Resources; Water; Conservation; Development; Deduru Oya

## Assessment of the impact of May 2003 Flood in Matara District

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Nearly 90 percent of the area of Matara District is covered by the Nilwala basin. The district experiences floods during southwest monsoonal rains in May/June and with conventional and cyclonic activities in October/November. Severe floods were reported in 1940, 1944, 1955, 1969, 1989 and 2003. May 2003 Flood is the worst ever flood reported during the past 200 years in the district.

24 hour rainfall recorded at Deniyaya in the upper reaches of Nilwala River as 730 mm is the highest value ever recorded. The disaster affected 54 percent of GN divisions, nearly 18 percent of its total population and the effect was severe for 24 percent of the families living in the district. Total 17 deaths were reported. The calamity also had notable effects on Nilwala River and its floodplain environments.

The objective of this study is to estimate the magnitude of the flood damage to assess the economic, social and environmental impact of the May 2003 Flood in the Matara district. The data and. Economic impact of flooding assessed using the secondary data and information gathered from different agencies.

Total flood damages are classified into two categories as direct and indirect. Value of direct damages include estimated housing repair costs of 30 million, 305 million of crop damages, estimated road repairing cost of 2476 million and 800 million repairing cost of other infrastructure facilities. Indirect costs of flooding which include costs arising from disruption to business activities and cost of emergency activities were difficult to estimate due to lack of reliable data. Intangible damages including death, sickness, stress, anxiety and environmental quality estimation was a very difficult task. Total flood losses during the May 2003 Flood is estimated as 4280 million rupees.

Floods of similar severity can probably occur in the future. Government Institutions should take action of early preparedness of such as early warning system and emergency management plans as measures to reduce possible economic and social impacts due to floods.

**Key Words:** Disaster impacts; Floods; Matara District; Environmental impact; Emergency plans

## Impact of groundwater extraction technologies on farmer welfare: the case of shallow tube-well farming in the Deduruoya basin in Sri Lanka

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As in many parts of South Asia and Southeast Asia, irrigation using shallow groundwater has allowed farmers in Sri Lanka increased control over their production. The impact of ground water use in irrigation began highly notable with the power-driven water lifting technologies in early 1970s. There are three types of agro-wells used by Sri Lankan farmers as, lined dug wells, unlined dug wells and tube-wells. Shallow tube-wells are confined to areas with alluvial aquifer, and the coastal-sand aquifer. Shallow tube-well technology is based on locally developed knowledge and has diffused rapidly in the many parts of the north-western province. This paper, based on a study conducted in selected villages in four sub-districts in the north western province of Sri Lanka, presents the historical development process and the impact of changes in groundwater extraction technology on farmer welfare.

According to the findings, the main groundwater extraction technology before 1985 was manual drafting using a large diameter stepping-in-well. Diesel pumps and tube-wells were introduced in 1985 and 1990 respectively. The present technology of electric pumps and the tube-well were adopted in 2002. Gradual transformation of technology has led to increasing net returns of cultivation. This began with increase of the area cultivated that led to higher net returns. The latest technology is less capital intensive in both fixed and working requirements and also less labor intensive allowing farmers to engage in other activities.

Capital accumulation among farmers has a potential in increased investments in water saving irrigation technologies such as drip and energy saving pumping technologies such as solar pumps with long term implications on energy and water use as well as the potential of leading to higher farmer incomes through value addition to existing products or through diversification to high value crops.

**Key Words:** Groundwater; Tube-wells; Water Pumps; Crop diversification; Farmer welfare

## The irrigation archaeology of Sri Lanka: A colonial initiative

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The role of irrigation in the ancient civilizations has long been emphasized. The Sri Lankan dry zone civilization is frequently been characterized as a hydraulic civilization. Vastness and the magnitude, technical sophistication, economic dependency and the social effects of irrigation exemplify this claim. Such claims, however, so far have not been objectively established from an archaeological perspective. Studies using material remains of irrigation are rare making the ancient irrigation of Sri Lanka a field practically untouched by archeologists.

The British Colonial administrators didn't conceal their admiration of the engineering skills of their designers and started studying irrigation systems from physical remains- Irrigation Archaeological Studies- within a few years of the establishment of their rule. The Survey Department's attempt to understand the geographical positioning of systems began in 1855, but it became more desirable only after 1887 with topographic surveys that led to the availability of topographic sheets. Maps provided the best insights into the spatial distribution of irrigation work while surveyors also carried out extensive documentation.

Irrigation engineers such as Parker who directed irrigation renovation work made plans, sketch drawings and wrote detailed descriptions and attempted to identify irrigation work referred to in the chronicles. Parker, in particular, attempted to understand the construction technology and operational mechanism of irrigation structures and also constructed a brief chronology. Apart from studying the irrigation structures and their technology, colonial civil servants were also keenly interested in studying the superstitious practices related to paddy cultivation and the related folklore. If not for the tireless enthusiasm of these invaders no clues about most of such practices and beliefs would be known today. This interest of studying irrigation through their physical remains remained until the end of the term of Hocart, the British Commissioner for Archaeology.

The present paper attempts to emphasize the contribution of British Colonial administrators in studying irrigation through their material remains and there by establishing the Irrigation Archaeology in Sri Lanka. It also stresses the importance of re-initiating this archaeological perspective into the Sri Lankan Irrigation studies.

**Key Words:** Irrigation Archaeology; Colonial administration; Irrigation structures; Surveying; Field documentation

## Personal values of Sri Lankan managers

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Major management techniques of small and medium businesses in Sri Lanka are authoritative control and creating fear. Common in pre-colonial and colonial business organizations, these are expected to be changed with global trends in business ownership and management. However, recent studies reveal that changes occurred in management in SMEs in Sri Lanka is minimal. Continuation of the colonial values by present young managers can be a probable reason for this situation.

The need for a match between the personal values and position or job or role in the society and organization for better results and performance is widely accepted. Some attribute the slow growth in Sri Lankan business activities to the mismatch between the managers, entrepreneurs' values and their business activities or strategies. Although operating in a competitive environment, application of modern technologies and business practices has become a problem in this country. Some researchers have concluded the implementation of modern management techniques in Sri Lanka as a failure. However, research studies on the effect of cultural factors on business practices in Sri Lankan environment are few.

The objective of this research is to examine the relationship between personal values of Sri Lankan managers and the demographic factors, place of birth and factors like job or position. Data for the study was collected from 100 managers through a structured questionnaire.

Findings reveal that about 80% of Sri Lankan managers consider social values as more important than the values attached with a profit maximization behavior. The same pattern is evident in a cross sectional analysis based on sex, job positions, age, religion and place of birth. The findings can be a base for challenging some of the beliefs among Sri Lankan's about the relationship between personal value type and success of businesses.

**Key Words:** Colonialism; Personal values; Business success; Entrepreneurs; Business management.



## Postmodernism in managing organizations in Sri Lanka

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Modernism presumes that the reality is external, fully defined and subject to discover through science. Post modernism presumes that the reality is not external: it is internal. Management in the perspective of modernism breaks down the organization into isolated parts and organization is viewed as a system in which hierarchy is well defined, structured and purposive. Furthermore, it assumes to manage organization through homogenized and standardized methods and procedures. Simply modernism perspective of management is based on the scientific, classical, human relation aspect of the management so as to find out one best way to achieve organizational objectives. The questions are “does reality exists fully independent of knower?, Is reality out there to be discovered? On the other hand, is reality ‘in here’? Is reality subject to experience under the influence of social, cultural and political influence?” The answers for all these questions explain the postmodernism context of management. Postmodernism perspective in management often challenges modern notions of truth and the search for one best way. The characteristic of post modernism organizations are celebrate uncertainty, quality focus, customer service, diversity, networking, virtual organization, outsourcing, flexibility, cross functional teams and greater emphasis on learning.

In general characteristic of most Sri Lankan organizations are: unhappy to deal with uncertainty, not prefer to delegate authority, lack of trust, unwilling to accept responsibilities and challenges, fear of new technology and fear of new organizational structure etc.,. So it is worthy to mention that there are challenges for Sri Lankan managers to face when reaching postmodernism philosophy which is essential to ensure survival and growth in a dynamic and competitive environment. Changing the role of academic bodies and professional institutions, converting organization as learning centers, developing talents of employees and positioning self management development concept in the minds of people are ways that can be recommended for overcoming the challenges.

**Key Words:** Modernism; Organizational behavior; Management development;  
Business survival and growth; Business management; Uncertainty

## Cultural identity and business management in post-colonial Sri Lanka: A critical studies account

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Sri Lankan culture has had its own civilization for millennia, although from the 12th century it was subjected to several invasions. The last and the most dominant colonization was by the British who ruled from 1796 until 1948. More than half a century later, there still exists a demonstrably different culture, hybridized in many ways including in cultural, political, linguistic, religious and judicial systems. This leads to complex and unique behavioral patterns. This paper discusses post-colonial imperialist cultural influences that continue to dominate business activities in Sri Lanka. Observations are drawn from critical studies conducted within (1) the tea plantation sector and (2) the successful indigenous business sector.

The emergent picture is one in which subjective, socially-bound orientalism and colonialist cognitive individualism intertwine to form a paradoxical, hybrid management culture. Managers of both large and small businesses operate within an environment characterized by diverse yet interchangeable opposing forces including dependence and independence, caste and class dignity, superiority and inferiority, Buddhist civilization and savagery, intelligence and emotion, rationality and sensuality, self and other, subject and object.

Our explorations demonstrate that in many facets of commercial activity, British practices endure in forms modified to accommodate the Sri Lankan way of life, creating a business culture that constitutes a unique amalgam of the contrasting imperialist and indigenous contributions. Among the results of the conflict are the superficial and ineffective incorporation of apparently mainstream but culturally incongruous western management models and practices.

**Key Words:** Orientalism; Colonialism; Organizational behavior; Cultural identity; Business management

## Gender discrimination in Jaffna entrepreneurship

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From the beginning of human appearance on the earth male, female discrimination has taken place. Historical evidence state and explain that the woman had been the leading and a mother was treated on par with god. Later in the society men advanced to a higher level. And in the present advanced technological era, there is high gender discrimination is a common phenomena and is found in each and every aspect in the society.

In Jaffna where women are culturally bound they cannot and do not take up entrepreneurship as a full time job. They don't enter business as most men do. A major objective of this paper is to examine how gender discrimination specially affects women in Jaffna entrepreneurship and how these cultural factors influence to discriminate in entrepreneurship. The mayor findings of this paper highlight the attitude towards a woman entering business as negative and if she succeeds it is chance, if she fails it is considered natural. So there is lack of self-worthiness and women face difficulties in being accepted as a boss in Jaffna entrepreneurship.

Key Words: Gender analysis; Entrepreneurship; Jaffna Society; Cultural identity; Business management;

## The influence of maternal employment on the nutrition of preschool children: The case of Sri Lanka

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Increasing female employment is a global trend. Although employment leads to increased household incomes and greater household food security, working mothers devote less time in child-care. The present study aims to assess the impact of mothers' employment on the nutritional status of preschool children in the Kurunegala Municipality area in the northwestern province of Sri Lanka. Four hundred preschool children aged 3 - < 6 years were selected by stratified random sampling. Information on mothers' employment and childcare time were collected using a self-administered questionnaire and activity recall respectively. Anthropometric measurements (weight, height, mid upper arm circumference & skin fold thickness) were used to determine the nutritional status of the children.

The average care time of employed mothers is significantly lower than that of unemployed mothers ( $p < 0.05$ ). Monthly family income in low-care time group is significantly higher than that of high-care time group ( $p < 0.05$ ). Anthropometric measurements except the mean height, and nutritional indices of are not different between children of employed mothers and unemployed mothers. The children in high-care time and low-care time groups also show no differences in the nutritional status. The odds of a child becoming underweight, stunted or wasted do not vary significantly by mothers' employment status although the income and paternal education were significant independent factors contributing to nutritional status.

It can be concluded that the nutritional status of preschool children aged 3-<6 years is influenced by the income levels of the household and paternal education rather than the maternal employment

**Key Words:** Child nutrition; Working mothers; Anthropometric studies; Child care; Family income

## Impact of macroeconomic policies on poverty and income distribution in Sri Lanka

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Sri Lanka is a good example of a developing country which achieved an impressive achievement in social development when compared to its modest economic growth. This was achieved by the welfare-led economic policies followed by successive government over the post colonial period. It has been argued, however, that the social development programs have been maintained by sacrificing economic growth and employment. Even though, the country was able to enjoy a modest growth in the output and employment during the past two decades, poverty in general and rural poverty in particular, remains, as a major economic and social problem. There is a considerable diversity in performance across provinces and districts. If there wasn't a sectoral and regional imbalance of growth, the growth rate would have generated a marked reduction of poverty in the country. The major objective of this study is to explore the trends of poverty and income distribution over the post colonial period and to find out the drawbacks of poverty alleviation strategies.

Income distribution is an important determinant of how economic growth affects poverty reduction. No country has been able to sustain its effort in reducing poverty without income distribution. The study does suggest that the growth above a level of five percent, increase in employment and remittances are the most important factors to change in poverty over time. Also the study concludes that under the structural adjustment programs, specially, rural poverty have tended to increase mainly because of low growth rate of agriculture, withdrawal of subsidies on agricultural inputs and consumption, increase in indirect taxes and also declining in public expenditure on social services. This paper heavily emphasizes the need of a strategy to reduce poverty and argues that besides the safety nets for vulnerable groups, broad based economic growth, developing the human capital, as well as promotion of micro enterprises are critically important. In addition, since the poverty is heavily concentrated in specific regions, additional emphasize is needed to help the poor participate in growth. Also It is essential to remove existing inequalities in human and physical resources between rural and urban areas.

Key Words: Economic policies; Rural Poverty; Regional growth; Human capital; Vulnerable groups

Poverty, public policy implementation and the politics of beneficiaries: A study of Samurdhi Movement of Sri Lanka

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Policy scientist working in the field of poverty alleviation had observed a gap between stated objectives and the policy outcome as a constant phenomenon in the field of poverty alleviation. Many past studies that focused on political aspects of policy formulation and policy implementation as causal factor for policy failures have identified politicization of bureaucracy and bureaucratization of politics as obstacles for policy implementation. Countries in the developing world voluntarily or as response to demand to decentralized policy making or as implementation requirements by development agencies have adapted participatory development as a mechanism to overcome political interference from policies of poverty alleviation. Sri Lanka also adapted this policy orientation in poverty alleviation efforts Under Janasaviya programme of the United National Party government and the Samurdhi Movement of Peoples' Alliance Government. Yet, some studies and evaluations of programs for poverty alleviation revealed that political factor remains the same despite policy statement to de-politicize.

In a context of greater decentralization of powers to beneficiaries in program formulation and implementation, understanding how politicians and other stakeholders of policy community can interfere into efforts of poverty alleviation is a problem in the present knowledge of politics of poverty alleviation. The present study argues that beneficiary is an important contributor to politicize public policies and examines the political participation of beneficiaries in public policy formulation and policy implementation based on a study conducted to assess success of Samurdhi movement in the Galle District of Sri Lanka. It has revealed that beneficiaries do not politically participate in the policy making process but in the policy implementation process inviting politicians to intervene into the benefit allocation and thus, making ways to political manipulation of public moneys.

Key words: Policy Implementation; Policy Failures; Participatory Development; Politicization; Poverty

Identification of slums, shanties and tenements and their geographical distribution - a grass root level study in the Galle Four Gravets Divisional Secretary's Division

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Slums and poverty are considered as co-existing universally. Interdependence between the slums and poverty leads to complex social and economic problems. Thus the sector needs urgent attention and prudent planning of activities aimed at increasing the welfare of present dwellers and also curbing further aggravation of the situation. However, lack of data and information at grassroots level is an important impediment in planning. Conventional data collection agencies seldom cover the informal and unorganized sections of the society and alternative approaches are needed to record the status of this and similar sectors of the society. Slums and shanties are mainly an urban phenomenon as opportunities in informal economic activities induce rural-urban migration.

The study aims at understanding the causal factors and the present status of sub-standard urban housing in the Southern Sri Lanka. Identification of the types of sub-standard housing, their conditions and location was conducted as the first step of the study as data on the number and the locations were non-existent.

The study focused on the Galle Divisional Secretary's area which covered the Galle Municipal Area and the suburbs. Galle city is considered as the capital of the Southern Province of Sri Lanka and is the home for many business activities emerging from trade and commerce to tourism. Fifty Grama Niladhari Divisions were surveyed at grassroots level to identify the slum type and their geographical location. A total of 1190 sub-standard housing units were identified in the study area and were mapped. These sub-standard settlements are found in diverse locations. But all these locations can be identified as marginal geographical areas. Locations ranged from marshy land to fractured rock margins, railway tracks, under the bridges and concrete cylinders.

Key Words: Poverty; Urban Slums; Rural-urban migration; Informal economy; Mapping

## Domestic agriculture and its changing role during the post liberalization period: The case study on Sri Lanka

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Economic liberalization and structural adjustment policies have been accompanied with the agrarian optimism. These policies are based on the view that the growth of agricultural sector provides sectoral and spatial links to the development of the rest of the economy. The country's economic liberalization policy package after 1977 consisted of removal of price control, removal of barriers to the international trade, exchange rate liberalization, gradual removal of government from the economic activities and removal of subsidies. This paper examines the changes in domestic agricultural sector and its role during the post liberalization period and attempts to derive policy implications for the development of the sector and thereby the rural economy of Sri Lanka.

The findings show that there has been a significant increase in production of certain agricultural commodities due to some of the liberalized economic policies. However, growth rate of the sector remains low when compared to that of the economy. There has also been a reduction in the relative contribution of agriculture to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This study further indicates that the domestic agricultural sector in Sri Lanka suffers from numerous socio-economic problems such as poverty, income inequality, unemployment and under-employment indicating the inability of liberalized economic policies to sustain long-term economic growth in the rural economy of Sri Lanka.

Therefore, broad based growth of the domestic agriculture is very important for accelerated economic growth in rural areas of Sri Lanka. The increase in the productivity of domestic agriculture, migration of labor out of agriculture to the industry and service sectors, infrastructure development, crop diversification and promoting rural non-farm employment opportunities are some of the major components of the development of rural economy in Sri Lanka. The study further shows that rural poverty is closely associated with the domestic agriculture in Sri Lanka. Even at present a large number of households in rural areas of Sri Lanka directly or indirectly depend on the agriculture. The raising the marginal productivity of those who remain in agriculture leads to increase overall economic growth reduces rural poverty in Sri Lanka.

Key Words: Economic liberalization; Structural adjustments; Rural economy; Domestic agriculture; Rural poverty



## Home grown rice and livelihood security: Evidence from peri-urban rice farming in Sri Lanka

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Smallholder nature of rice farming in Asia has contributed to the argument that many producers are net-consumers of rice. Despite several past studies arguing the unprofitable nature of rice farming in Sri Lanka, rice farming continues to be an important economic activity even in the areas of rapid industrialization and urbanization.

The purpose of this paper is to highlight household food and income security issues in peri-urban rice farming using primary data from a sample of farming households from the Kaduwela sub district in the Western Province of Sri Lanka. The study was conducted in the year 2003 and production data are related to 2002/03 Maha season. Farming in the area is primarily a subsidiary activity. Farmers on average cultivated 0.397 ha of land and invested Rs. 13,806.00 per season as cash costs. Average yield reported is 3647 kg/ha.

Disposal pattern of produce reveals that farmers retain 60 percent of their produce for home consumption. Only 18 percent of the produce is marketed and the community gets the rest of the produce as in-kind payments for land rent, labor and other services.

Net cash investment plus the cost of milling make the cost of home-grown rice 18.11 Rs. per kg which is Rs. 9.68 less than the average retail price paid by consumers. Families engaged in paddy farming save on average Rs. 5766.00 through reduced cost of rice. An average family also generates 20 person-days of paid labor and generates in kind payments worth of Rs. 6,000.00 per season.

It is argued that farmers are motivated by considerations other than pure financial profit and the activity can be considered as a livelihood strategy to reduce risk by utilizing available resources.

**Key Words:** Rice; Food consumption; Marketed surplus; Peri-urban farming; Food security

## Trends of fish production and the problems encountered by the fishermen in the Jaffna peninsula

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Fishing has been a main economic activity in northern coastal region. Before 1983, Jaffna District contributed 20 to 25 percent of the total fish production in Sri Lanka. The war for the last 2 decades has driven the fishing industry of Jaffna under much hardship and as a result the life of the fishing community has been badly affected. The situation is far away from normalcy after two years of signing the MOU. Any study should look at the resources of the fisheries sector in the light of the above situation. This study highlights the issues, fish production trends, problems encountered by fishermen and propose solution to overcome the problem.

Three phases can be identified in the trend of fish production in Jaffna District. The first phase from 1951 to 1983 shows a steady increase in production. The annual fish production increased from 4351 Mt in 1951 to 48776 Mt in 1983. The onset of second phase is marked by the outbreak of civil war in 1983. Annual fish production fell to 13161 Mt in 1984 and the decline continued and reached 1191 Mt in 1991 and the production was 2676 Mt in 2001. Signing of the MOU in 2001 marks the beginning of the third phase. Production increased to 5311 Mt in 2002 and to 21206 Mt in 2003. But it is less than half of the amount produced before the outbreak of the civil war that is in the year 1983.

Though some of the restrictions imposed on fishing have been released the remaining restrictions constraints the efficient use of the fishery resource. Restriction on fishing time and the limited areas to operate and problems encountered in the shore contribute to this situation. Exploitation by Indian fishermen contributes to aggravate the problem.

Lifting of high security zones and resettlement of displaced fishing families after providing all basic amenities, and replacing the destroyed fishing equipment, arriving at an amicable settlement to solve the trespassing of the Indian fishing community, and immediate opening of fiberglass boats, fishing nets; and ice factories, the fish processing centers are recommended as measures to improve the fishing industry in Jaffna.

**Key Words:** Trend analysis; Fishing; Indian fishermen; Ethnic conflict; Security concerns

Sri Lanka's unique human development path as identified by the modified human development indicator

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Human Development Indicator (HDI), is considered as a true measure of development. The index gives equal weight to longevity, educational attainment and per-capita income. In the year 2002, Sri Lanka was in the 112th place in the GDP per capita scale while its HDI rank was 96.

Development policies aimed at increasing GDP considers that wealth and material possessions of a country guarantee human well-being. HDI in contrast have some capacity to identify countries with human development policies that offer alternatives to conventional development policies. There is however a serious flaw in the human development path advocated by the HDI. Since GDP per capita contributes towards one third of the HDI, for a country to reach the top ranks of HDI, the country should not only improve its records on longevity and educational attainment, but also should improve its GDP per capita. Such thinking perhaps has its origin in the belief that a country with high GDP per capita somehow does better than a country with low GDP per capita. Such believes in reality are contradicted by the income inequality existing among the citizens of countries with high income, and by the environmental degradation that goes hand in hand with unlimited growth of GDP per capita.

In this paper HDI has been modified in a simple manner to reward countries with commendable levels of income equality and relatively low resource utilization characteristics. To measure the above, indicators have been developed based on Gini index and per capita electricity consumption, and these indicators are then suitably used to modify the HDI. With the income equality record comparable to that of many high- income countries and with its record of having very moderate resource utilization characteristics, Sri Lanka is raised by the modified HDI to be a country among the top ranks of human development. It is highly recommended that the findings of this paper be incorporated in the determination of Sri Lanka's human development path.

Key Words: Human development; Economic growth; development policies; Income inequality

Economic growth and foreign aid in Sri Lanka: A study under open economic regime from 1977 – 2002

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Economic growth is a prerequisite for the development of a country. Most of the Developing Countries including Sri Lanka are striving hard to achieve a high level of economic growth. The capital formation is one of the most important factors of economic growth and is a major challenge for policy makers. Foreign aid plays an important role in the process of capital formation. Bridging the saving – investment gap and easing forging exchange shortage to promote economic growth and to achieve higher standards of living, are some of the reasons for developing countries to seek foreign aid. Sri Lanka's economic development after the independence has largely shaped by foreign aid and the process intensified after the economic liberalization in 1977.

The main objective of this study is to assess the contribution of foreign aid to economic growth of Sri Lanka during the period 1977 – 2002. This study analyses the role of foreign aid in promoting economic growth in Sri Lanka by focusing on the composition disbursement, trends and the impacts. The role of foreign aid on simulative sectors (economic infrastructure, social infrastructure agriculture and industrial sectors etc) of Sri Lankan economy and its main characteristics were also examined.

The findings confirms that foreign had played a vital role in promoting economic growth of Sri Lanka during the period under review. Significant changes have taken place in foreign aid disbursement and its composition. The study also shows that the utilization of foreign aid has remained very low during this period.

Key Words: International trade; Economic growth; Economic liberalization; Investment; Public policy

## Youth risk behaviors: A social determinants approach to health interventions

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In March 2004, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) funded a one year pilot study of the factors which impact upon the health of young women and men in a post conflict society. The CIHR project provides a foundation for building an interdisciplinary team of academic and NGO researchers from the University of Ottawa, Research for International Tobacco Control (RITC), University of Ruhuna, Marga Institute, Commonwealth Secretariat, CIET, Canada, and Saint Mary's University, to examine the health risk behaviours of youth in Sri Lanka. The team, headed by Carol Amaratunga, Chair, Women's Health, University of Ottawa, will investigate decision making, high risk behaviours, and issues of power and powerlessness among Sri Lanka youth. Co Principal Investigator, Linda Waverley, Executive Director of the Research for International Tobacco Control (RITC) Secretariat, housed at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Ottawa, will provide expertise in development research, research on the social and economic determinants of health, knowledge transfer and policy development. Sri Lankan team members include Sarath Amarasinghe, Chair, Sociology Department, University of Ruhuna and Myrtle Perera, Senior Research Fellow, Marga Institute.

The research will focus on the interplay among the determinants of health and will assess how these factors affect decision making with respect to tobacco, alcohol, drug use and sexual health practices. The pilot will generate evidence to assist policy makers to design health programs for displaced and unemployed youth. Sri Lanka is emerging from more than 30 years of social unrest in the South and civil conflict in the North and East. With the advent of peace and reconstruction, young women and men will be repatriated to their ancestral villages. These youth face prospects of unemployment and post traumatic stress. The pilot will provide a gender analysis of the challenges, and also the opportunities, faced by young women and men as they search for security in post conflict Sri Lanka.

**Key Words:** Gender analysis; post conflict society; Interdisciplinary studies; Youth risk behaviors; Reconstruction

## Sri Lankan politics during the early 20th Century

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The British captured the coastal areas of Sri Lanka in 1796 and the entire Sri Lanka in 1815. The article analyses the way in which the British divide and rule policy influenced the present ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka.

The first step by the British showing their policy was Colbrook-Cameron Legislature in 1833. The Legislature consisted of fifteen members of which six were non-official members appointed on communal basis. Requests to abolish this communal representation system and to establish regional level representation raised by both Sinhalese and Tamils were not heard by the British. This ethnicity based representation was further continued through McCollum-Crew constitution introduced in 1910. The election held in 1910 to elect the educated Sri Lankan representative was a notable incident, which shows the unity of the Sinhalese and the Tamils in Sri Lanka political history. A Tamil received the support of both communities and to be elected as the representative of the educated Ceylonese and number of members from two communities became equal. This compelled the British to treat both Sinhalese and Tamils alike irrespective of majority minority division.

Before McCollum reforms Sri Lankan civil society appeared for people's rights without communal or religious divisions. Printers' Union was established as the first trade union in the country in the late 19th Century. At the beginning of the 20th Century combined movements of Christians and Buddhists protested against laws to introduce distilling liquor. In this background 1915 marked the Sinhala-Muslim riot and the British favored the Muslims by showing their "divide" and "rule" policy. However the Sri Lankans responded to it by forming the Lanka National Congress in 1919 where both the Sinhalese and Tamils were represented.

**Key Words:** Divide and Rule policy; Legislative reforms; Communal representation; Social protests; British Colonialism

## The economic effects of the Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict

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Sri Lanka is a multi-ethnic nation. Two major ethnic groups, namely the Sinhalese and the Tamils constitute 74% and 12% of the total population of 19 million respectively. These two ethnic groups had co-existed without any serious conflict though there were few sporadic incidents. With the advent of these ethnic conflicts, Tamils have intensified their demand for a separate state in the Northern and Eastern provinces resorting to an armed struggle. The year 1983 marked the most important turning point in this path. An ambush engineered by armed Tamils killing an army envoy triggered a tense situation leading to clashes between two ethnic groups in many parts of the country. Since then, the Tamil terrorist movements began to expand. Militant groups continued to fight with government forces and also attacked innocent civilians.

Sri Lanka had historically experienced a slow rate of economic growth. The new government in 1977 introduced new economic reforms and created a new optimism regarding the future of the Sri Lankan economy. The ratio of investment to GDP rose from 14% in 1977 to 31% in 1982 and inflation slumped to 1.5% in 1985 down from a high rate of 26% in 1980. During the period of 1977 to 1984 the annual real GDP growth rate was 6.5%. However the ethnic conflict disrupted the ascending economic growth and dimming the future growth prospects.

As an immediate response to the increasing severity of the armed resistance in 1983, the government increased its military spending dramatically and the Ministry of National Security was established to coordinate and administer the efforts of the new modernized and expanded armed forces. The military spending in 1983 constituted about 1.5% of the GDP and it was about 4% of the total government spending. By 1987-88 it had increased to over 5% of the GDP, which was 18% of the total governments spending. This amount of the total military expenditures has, in real terms, quadrupled from 1983 to 1988. No economy could expect to easily absorb such a tremendous increase in military spending. This study aims to analyze the economic effects of the Sri Lankan ethnic problem and the potential future costs that could be associated with a continuation of this conflict.

**Key Words:** Ethnic conflict; Military expenditure; Economic costs; Public expenditure; Economic reforms

## Marketization of the colonial structured bureaucratic system of Sri Lanka

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The public sector in many developing countries is increasingly adopting new techniques and strategies, which are being practised in the private sector, for policy formulation, implementation and management. This occurs because of the influence and pressure by the New Public Management Movement and the philosophy of Re-inventing Government, which is one of the prominent guiding principles of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on third world political regimes. The contemporary bureaucratic structure of Sri Lanka, which was introduced under British colonial ruling period, is now being re-adjusting to face new challenges resulting from the globalisation process parallel to the market oriented of private sector. Under this transition, new rules and regulations, new managerial approaches and a new organizational culture, which is ready to accommodate these innovations, have been introduced and the process continues.

This paper explains this transitional process and its impact on the societal expectations. The first part of the article analyses the colonial invention and proliferation of the bureaucracy in Sri Lanka and major reforms introduced after independence. The major concern of this study orients to analyse the new trends, so called marketization that is occurring within the bureaucratic system. In the name of marketization, sometimes, political interferences can be visualized. This article will end with a discussion of potential impact of the marketization on the civil society expectation from the bureaucracy.

Key words: Marketization; Bureaucracy; Government; Political regimes; Globalisation



Politics of Reformulations: Reformulation of community theatre based on Kooththu, the traditional theatre of the Thamils of Sri Lanka

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The politics of Reformulation is a shift in the paradigm from machine-centered industrialization and computerization to a one that is people-centered. Redefining or reinventing the concepts of development and technology is the pre-requisite for this process. It is basically liberating the human beings from machines and re-connects them with the nature. Fundamentally human beings are also elements of nature but with the power of modern technology to control the nature or the whole Universe for its own benefits. But the “Modern Man” with his powers created the world for a few and brought destructions to the rest. The concept of Reformulation involves a process of unbinding the Man from mechanization and makes him a human being to live in a world of equality where difference is celebrated. This will be achieved through different kinds of ways and means at different levels.

The process of Kooththu could function as one of the means to formulate a people oriented activity in the creation of a world of equality where the difference is celebrated. Kooththu is not only an art of the artist in the modern sense, but it's mainly a process of a community. The basic process of the Kooththu system is learning it; by doing it collectively and the primary source of it is Memory. These aspects made the Kooththu process primarily a practice oriented one.

Modernization and Commercialization of Kooththu alienate the people who own it and practicing it for generations. The pre-colonial nature of Kooththu is considered as crude, unsophisticated, primitive and the art of the illiterate and the uneducated because those who involved in the Kooththu at the community level are not educated in the colonial education institutions and are not the consumers of imported spirits.

The influence of the politics and aesthetics of modernization played a vital role in the perception of Kooththu in modern times. This perception made the “educated” to think that Kooththu as Medai Kooththu (Kooththu in the Picture Frame Stage). Kooththu was dislocated from its origin and appropriated to a new space introduced by colonial power. A community oriented performance art was minimized to performance oriented art for the audience in a colonial building and the audience was made to think, it's modern.

Key Words: Classical drama; Kooththu; Aesthetics; Modernization; Colonial education

## De-radicalization of Marxist movements: A study of the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP)

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There are number of studies which deal with JVP as an up-and-coming radical movement. The present study deviates from past studies in their entirety and analyzes JVP as a de-radicalizing leftist party after 1990s while accentuating on its dynamism from its initial stage. The study is based on Robert C. Tucker's "Theory of De-radicalization of Marxist Movement" according to which Marxists movements including all the radical movements are unavoidably being de-radicalized. The study discusses the main elements of the theory of de-radicalization of Marxist movements, and how JVP was being established as a Marxist radical movement from 1965 and then proceed to examine the derailing of then existing social system and the county by JVP.

The party in its early years categorically rejected parliamentary politics and their only concern was armed strategies. However, after failed revolution of 1971 and the release of its leader Rohana Wijeweera in 1977, the party had entered into the doctrine of parliamentary socialism. Due to short-sighted political vision of the then government, they were forced to resort to political violence once again because they were prevented from democratic mainstream politics by proscribing it.

The study also analyzes the democratization process which started after 1990s and its impacts on JVP and restarting of de-radicalization process after allowing them to enter into the mainstream politics. Further, the study examines the JVP's of entering into alliances with liberal political parties and sharing political power after 2001 (Parivasa Government) and accepting cabinet portfolios in the present government. This study concludes that JVP is being completely de-radicalized and Tucker's theory has been proved to be true.

**Key Words:** Radical movements; Multi- party democracy; JVP; Political power; De-radicalization

## Other dimensions of the conflict in Sri Lanka

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Ethnicity is considered by many as the major cause of the present conflict in Sri Lanka. However, a review of literature on the issue identifies multiple causes of the phenomenon. The paper draws attention to the dimension of youth unrest and tries to see similarities between the LTTE and the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP).

An analysis of common characteristics of two movements reveals that the present situation must be understood within the political context of the problem rather than within a context of ethnicity. Both movements consist of deprived youth segments of the society and claim that the society in which they operate is subjected to colonial and postcolonial oppressions and disgusted economically and socially. Lack of opportunities for participation in the political system and the bias of the representative system toward the elite are emphasized. The leaders think that the power elite hinder their opportunities to represent in the political system and to express their grievances. This led to create unrest among youth and in turn power elite manipulate it for their short term political goals.

Leaders of the Sinhala community used grievances of the youth to gain political power but while in power tended to protect the status quo rather than addressing the issue. On the part of the Tamils, the political elite championed ethnicity as the main cause of the youth unrest and mobilized them to rally for a separate state, a utopia where they satisfy themselves. However, Tamil youth had realized that a separate state is unachievable under a democratic parliamentary way and hence took arms by threatening the structure of the unitary state. In the same manner, JVP also resorted to violence with the aim to overthrow the capitalist political regime. In this context JVP took a stand against the Indo- Sri Lanka Peace Accord signed in 1987 and resorted to patriotism in defense of unitary structure of the state. The LTTE on the other hand resorted to violence against Indian Peace Keeping Forces claiming that it does not offer solution for the real grievances of the Tamils.

Key Words: Ethnic conflict; Youth unrest; Postcolonial oppression; JVP; LTTE

## Real vs. imagined identities: Social formation and change in the village Teripahe

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The concept of “identity” is an important question in the modern world. There are cultural, social and historical boundaries and also a self-image generated by the composite of all these identities. The identity of any group or community is modulated and moderated by those of others. It basically depends on historical facts, gathered from the community and it is a historical process. The identity is an essential thing for any person or community in any society. It is a process of social and cultural practices of a community.

The objective of this study is to identify the nature of identity of a village community in a village situated in Walapane Divisional Secretariat Division of Nuwara Eliya district in the central highlands of Sri Lanka. The nature of identities among different communities in the village, the nature of traditional village identity, and the changing patterns of social structure and the formation of new identities in the village were also investigated.

The discourse of Teripahe identity is different from the Mahāvamsa view and extends the village to Lord Buddha’s first visit of Sri Lanka and the paddy culture of village. Village Teripahe is not much affected by other belief systems. There is no permanent place for polytheism in the Buddhist temples. The village has polytheism in the little tradition only. It emphasizes that there is a clear distinction between great and little traditions, though these traditions are interrelated. The identity of Teripahe shows a genuine basis for the Sinhalese-Buddhist identity. The identity of village, the identities of self and community and the historical contribution of each caste in building the combined identity are self-evident in the study of the village Teripahe. It is also a history of how these castes have organized themselves in the rural society, their distinctions, and how these changed them historically. Still, the leading adult members of each caste communities in the village guard the village identity. However, the identity of self and community has been challenged by the younger generation of the village.

**Key Words:** Social identity; History; Rural society; Caste; Polytheism

## Impact of the world oil crisis on Sri Lanka's international trade

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External shocks in the form of price fluctuations have affected Sri Lanka economy from time to time, as it has been an open economy vastly dependent on foreign trade. The world oil crisis in 1973 severely attacked the economy paralyzing manufacturing, transport and such related service sector simultaneously even before its liberalization. It has been claimed that the impact of the recent East Asian Crisis that evolved in Thailand in 1997 with a serious attack on its currency, was felt in Sri Lanka both in the form of price depreciation and a reduction of foreign capital inflows.

This paper examines the impact of increased world oil prices on Sri Lanka's external trade by means of export competitiveness and changes in the direction of trade. The study also examines the rationality of any attempt by the government not to transmit the increasing oil prices to the economy at a risk of ever-increasing fiscal deficit, which is to be financed by Value Added Tax.

The impact of oil price hikes is transmitted to external trade in the form of increased cost of production and devaluation of local currency. In one hand the increased oil prices push up the cost of production thus weakening the export competitiveness and on the other it causes depreciation of local currency that in turn upkeeps the export competitiveness. The ultimate impact depends on the fact that which force overweighs the other.

The study finds a redirection of Sri Lanka external trade both in terms of export and imports. Sri Lanka, though a rubber exporting country, has significantly increased import of rubber from East Asian countries and Sri Lanka's main industrial products are claimed to have been relatively less competitive even in the presence of significant currency devaluation. The study also found that the policy might be favorable for external trade. Nevertheless, the total loss to the internal economy caused by such a regulating policy may well exceed the cost of not implementing it.

Key Words: International trade; oil crisis; currency devaluation; Competitiveness;  
Currency devaluation

## Main environmental health Issues in the Hambantota District

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The Environmental Health problem is the most outstanding problem in Sri Lanka faces today. Main health environmental problems of the Hambantota District also similar to those of other areas.

This research was conducted to identify main health problems of the area, their causes and to investigate the strategies to minimize the risks. Tangalle region was selected as the study area. The outstanding features are that there is a high population and also urbanization is at its highest level in this area, much more than in the other regions of the district. More ever during the past ten years there was a great prevalence of infectious diseases such as Malaria, Dengue, Japanese Encephalitis, Filaria, Cholera and Hepatitis, particularly in the Tangalle Regional Secretariat Area. Many who became victims of those diseases suffered intensively. Health conditions of people degraded and there were many deaths.

The study reveals that the health problems affecting the people of the area include asthma and parasitic diseases that spread through polluted water and contaminated food. The causes for such environment health problems are due to carelessness of the public, their ignorance, poverty, lack of education, malnutrition, unsystematic town planning, construction of buildings, population growth, slumps, unsuitable for living, unorganized disposal of litter and the unsystematic health services. Causal factors of these problems are polluted water, scarcity of water, lack of toilet facilities which can be identified. Most of the infectious diseases can be avoided with the support of man.

Key Words : Health; Environment; Epidemics; Malnutrition; Hambantota

## Leonard Woolf's *The Village In The Jungle*: A revisit from a Buddhist perspective

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The purpose of this paper is to critically evaluate Woolf's classic from a Buddhist perspective. My main argument is that Woolf an Imperialist himself has not represented the Buddhist sentiment in his narrative thereby allowing himself the necessary room to portray the native Sinhalese in the novel as wild beasts. This I see as a conscious effort on the part of Woolf in order to pass his Imperialist judgment upon the natives. I develop my argument based on three accusations, as, a) that Woolf has not made the Buddhist temple a component part of the village, b) he has not at least referred to the existence of a Buddhist priest in the village and c) he has nowhere in the novel referred to the inhabitants of Beddegama as Buddhists.

In Woolf's description of the setting of the novel, the jungle and the village, thus highlighting the exotic of both worlds, Woolf refers to the existence of a tank and paddy fields. My question is, why not a Buddhist temple? No picture of a Sri Lankan village is complete and realistic without it. Next in his description of people and their occupations, why does Woolf consciously eliminate the Buddhist priest? If the village had a headman and a vederala why did it not have a Buddhist priest? Further by not referring to the inhabitants of Beddegama as Buddhists, Woolf, together with the above omissions places himself in a very dominant position so that he can portray the natives as villains and barbarians-to portray them totally in animal imagery. I attempt to prove this aspect in relation to both characterization events as well as situations in the novel. My conclusion that Woolf has not much succeeded in his attempt to make the natives wild beasts is drawn from the examples of love subsisted between some members of this community and the rare human acts of them which really contradict Woolf's intentions.

The roles of budgetary control systems in creating competitive advantage: Evidence from a case study

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An attempt has been made to iterate novel rhetoric of Management Accounting with specificities of accounting practices prevailing in a particular segment in Sri Lanka. The purpose of this study is to explore the way and the extent to which the roles of Budgetary Control Systems (BCS) contribute in creating and sustaining Competitive Advantages (CA). By applying holistic methodology, for this purpose, the study confines to a particular business unit i.e. the case site: Harischandra Mills Group of Companies. This study particularly concentrates on two products; Harischandra Coffee and Noodles out of its eleven departments, which manufacture a variety of range of product categories. As evidenced from the case study, BCS facilitates to satisfy demand for coffee and Noodles at a competitive price by incurring lower costs leading to higher sales volumes with a satisfactory margin. In addition, the tight quality control systems and cost management tactics adopted by the company also seem to be enhancing the ability of acquiring those advantages. This has led the company to acquire superior performances over the competitors by applying strategies of cost leadership and product differentiation in terms of high quality. The study concludes that even though BCS could play a dominant role in creating sustainable CA, it is not sufficient by itself to accomplish the intention of creating sustainable CA.

Key words: Competitive advantage; Budgetary Control Systems; Superior Performances; Cost leadership; Product differentiation



## Unionized behavior and leaders' performance: Evidence of private sector banking in Sri Lanka

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There was a theoretical argument that the unionized behavior of people affected to the performance of the Leader as well as the performance of the overall organization. In today's context, number of private sector organizations do not allow people to unionize. However, the performance of leaders in these organizations and the overall organizational performance remain high. Hence, there was a questionable point that how affects unionized behavior of people on the performance of leaders. Therefore, this study focused on two objectives. They were (i) to reveal that is there a significant difference between the leader performance of unionized and non-unionized organizations; and (ii) to examine the nature and the degree of the relationship between the leader performance and the unionized behavior of people in both unionized and non-unionized organizations. An empirical research method was applied for this study and a sample of the managers and employees of the private sector banking organizations in Sri Lanka was selected. The null form of the hypothesis of this study was that there was no significant difference between the leader performance of unionized and non-unionized organizations. To test the hypothesis, the Chi-squared test was applied and the results of this test rejected the null hypothesis. The Correlation analysis was applied to determine the nature and the degree of the relationship between the leader performance and the unionized behavior of people. The results revealed that there was a low positive correlation (0.078) between these two variables in unionized situation and low negative correlation (-0.083) in non-unionized situation. Findings further argued that even though both managers and the subordinators rated the performance of leaders in non-unionized banks as high, the rate was relatively low when compare with the unionized banks. Finally it can be confirmed that even though the number of private sector organizations do not allow for trade unions in their work places grouping as unions gain benefits to the leaders in organizations.

Key Words : Unionized behavior; Leader performance; Private sector; Unionization

## Outsourcing practices in the banking sector in Sri Lanka

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Over the last ten years, outsourcing has become the most prominent strategic concern in the banking sector in Sri Lanka. Outsourcing denotes the shift that occurs when a business entity takes work traditionally performed internally and contracts with an external provider for the provision of that work. At its earlier time, this strategy was popular as a low-cost strategy. Early outsourced functions were simple activities, such as security and janitorial services. But in today's context, outsourcing has progressed to include many higher order functions including IT solutions, product developments and design, and so on by focusing more on much broader set of goals other than low-cost. Those include: improve service quality, manage work stress, enhance competitive advantages, and respond to the fast changing global environment that affects to the organizations. However the theorists who develop the concept of "outsourcing" advised that the firms which seek to adopt the outsourcing should not to outsource anything that can be outsourced, but to outsource everything that ought to be outsourced, and the activities which are not contributed to the firms core competencies. However, in the banking sector, the real practice of this strategy is somewhat different what say in the theory. Therefore, the objective of the present study is to examine the activities that have been outsourced by the private sector banking organizations in Sri Lanka, how outsource is implementing and to evaluate the effectiveness of this strategy in achieving the desired set of goals. Three private sector banking organizations, namely, NDB, HNB, and DFCC were selected. Janitorial, security, motor pool, pay- roll, IT, and human resource training are the most common services that have been outsourced by these three banks. The performance of outsourcing of all the functions is very high than in-house sourcing.

**Key Words:** Outsourcing, Low-cost strategies, Service quality, Work stress; Private Sector

## Youth at high risk behavior: Nature and diversity of the problem in the Southern Sri Lanka

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Youth risk behavior concerns the pattern of involvement of young men and women in activities which generate harmful consequences to the individual and the society in terms of mental and physical health and wellbeing. The types of youth risk behaviors identified in this study are basically outcomes of various socio-economic and political changes taken place during the last several decades. Among these risk behaviors, violence, addiction to dangerous drugs, alcohol and smoking, unprotected/commercial sex and unsafe abortion seem to be more prevalent.

The youth riots burst out in 1971 and 1989 periods to protest the contemporary political regimes led to severe damages of lives and properties of people in southern Sri Lanka. Such violent behaviors further continued to a certain extent with the draining of arms and the army deserters resulted by the ethnic war in the north. Unprotected sex and commercial sex were some other phenomena on resulted with the social changes that took place during the last several decades. The young soldiers of the Sri Lankan armed forces, youth who involved in the tourist industry, young wives of deceased soldiers, female factory workers in the garment industry and migrant women to Middle East employment were also found to be vulnerable to commercial sex and unprotected sex behavior. Migration of women to the Middle East countries also had negative impact on their husbands and young children exposing them to alcohol, drugs and premarital and extra marital sexual relations. The youth involved in tourist industry in the coastal locations were frequently found to be vulnerable to dangerous drugs, alcohol and smoking.

The involvement of youth in risk behavior has caused diverse of negative consequences for them and for the society. Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and other STDs, unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions were some major consequences of unprotected and commercial sex practices. The violent behaviors have produced severe damages to the lives keeping communities with fear and insecurity. The consumption of dangerous drugs, alcohol and smoking has produced various mental and physical illnesses creating a challenge for the health and wellbeing of the youth.

**Key words:** High risk behavior; HIV/AIDS; Armed conflict; Drug abuse; Female employment

## The Post-colonial subject

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Karl Marx celebrated the progressive task done by the imperialism in Asia and Africa and at the same time extended his support for the anti-colonial movements against imperialism in these continents. Marx wrote about colonialism before what is called the Age of New Imperialism. V.I. Lenin in his book entitled 'Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism' argued that colonialism or imperialism was a necessary part of how capitalism functions. Marxist position on imperialism or colonialism has been criticized by various standpoints ranging from extreme nationalism to so-called post-colonial theories. The popular claim is that colonists restructured culture and economy in colonies and hence to be blamed for all the sufferings and failures they face today. Similarly there is a popular political propaganda for 'lost heritage' in the subjugated societies. This paper intends to re-asses the Marxist position on colonialism. It argues that in contrary to the Marxist position of true radical, the post-colonial stuffs against colonialism are to be identified as a pseudo-radical bulk of complaints and blames against the 'Master'.

In theory of antagonism, it is the slave who asks for the master because he wants to be the slave i.e. to keep his slave identity. Hegel calls the moment the slave gives up his own identity 'the negation of the negation', the moment he understand he had nothing got lost because of the master and this is the true radical moment which confronts the subject its void in itself without represented by a signifier in a Lacanian sense. Within this theoretical context so-called post-colonialism is to be understood as an intellectual fashion which avoids the true ground of politics i.e. the logic of capital and eventually supports the status quo and in that sense as an apolitical position. It is Marx who is truly against colonialism and not the so-called post-colonial blamers who ask for the master to be there because they want construct their post-colonial identity.

Key words: Marxism, Post-colonialism, Colonialism, Imperialism, Identity

## Modaka use among the youth in Colombo City and its suburbs

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Cannabis is used by both ayurvedic and traditional physicians for medicinal preparations. In the past cannabis was believed to grow in every village in Sri Lanka for its use in indigenous medicine and the traditional physician exercised a social control on its abuse.

Production of Modaka, a substance using Cannabis by unauthorized private manufacturers and abuse by the young has become a social problem today. The purpose of the study was to obtain a clear picture regarding Modaka use by the young. The study was conducted in selected locations in Colombo district. 60 Modaka using students and 88 vendors selected using snowball sampling. A pre-tested questionnaire and observations were used for data collection.

The findings of the study indicate that modaka is freely available in the local market and its use is prevalent among young children. The most vulnerable age group for initiation of modaka use is 15 - 20 years. Students, who are studying in O/L and A/L classes and attending evening classes, participating in sports after school, were the high-risk group. Peer influence was the most important factor for the initiation of modaka use and curiosity was the second reason. Majority used modaka for intoxication. The study revealed that modaka label was also one of the factors for attraction to Modaka use by youth. Both the students and vendors had positive attitudes towards modaka use. 84 percent of vendors justified the Modaka use with the perception that modaka is not harmful its use is not a social problem such as heroin.

Modaka production is illegal and its free availability leads youth to abuse it. Modaka use has the potential of becoming a severe social and health problem. There is a need for greater awareness on effects of modaka use. Special attention should be given to create awareness among groups with a tendency to use it. Guidelines for production and sale of the drug should be made.

Key Words: Ayurvedic drugs; Cannabis; Youth behavior; Modaka; Legal aspects of drugs

## Rainfall variability, droughts and ENSO over the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka

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Drought is mainly the results of deficient rainfall. It has an inherent characteristic of climates with pronounced rainfall variability, when the rainfall variability is high; the probabilities of the occurrence of droughts are more. Extreme climatic events, such as droughts and floods have profound impacts on agriculture, population, economy, and ecosystems. The El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is an important atmospheric and oceanic phenomenon for well over a century. Generally an El Nino is associated with a poor monsoon. Many studies have shown strong correlation of rainfall variability, drought with ENSO events. Studies on rainfall variability, drought and ENSO relationships are useful for agro-climatic planning. It can contribute to reduce the famine in certain areas or particular seasons.

The main objectives of the present study are: 1) to analyze the pattern of rainfall variability in the last 121 years (1881-2001) with particular reference to droughts 2) to study the frequency of occurrence of droughts and its intensity and duration. 3) to study the relationship between the occurrence of droughts, ENSO events over the dry zone of Sri Lanka.

For this analysis mean monthly and annual rainfall data for 121 years period were used. To study relationship between the occurrences of droughts and El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) events, monthly Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) data was collected from the Bureau of Meteorology, Australia and other published data have been used.

In the present study, the dry zone droughts have been analyzed on the basis of Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI), which is considered as more adaptable to the tropical precipitation characteristics. Drought is then categorized from the normalized rainfall series in accordance with the SPI criteria. The coefficient of variation (CV) of annual rainfall of Sri Lanka as a whole is 22 percent and its general range varies spatially from 12 to 28 percent (1881-2001). The coefficient of variation of annual rainfall is higher in the dry zone (24%) than in the wet zone (18%). In greater part of dry zone, CV of rainfall is over 21 percent.

**Key Words:** Rainfall variability; Climate studies; Sri Lanka; ENSO; Drought

## Adolescents' sexuality: A situation analysis in a Bangkok slum community in Thailand

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This study aimed to investigate sexual behaviors and opinions on sexuality of adolescents in urban slum community. It was conducted by a multi-disciplinary a research team consists of physicians, nurses, social scientists, and youth leaders.,

Methods consisting of in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and household surveys were used for data collection. Key informants including health personnel, NGO's staffs, and youth leaders were purposive selected for focus group discussion and in-depth interview to identify the variables and relevant concerns of adolescents. . Multistage random sampling was applied to recruit 871 adolescents aged 12-22.

The average at first sexual intercourse was 15.9 years (SD =2.36). Most of sex partner were their lover (60.9%), only 12.6% indicated total condom use. Total condom use for acquaintance and sex worker were quite low ( 28.8% for acquaintance, 15.3% for sex workers respectively). The qualitative study revealed that the age of sex debut was 12, most of the participants perceived that having sexual intercourse with lover is safe, assuming that they had trustworthy partners. Gender and age range were found to be the factors significantly related to the sex activities (p value <.001).

The study proves how the multi-disciplinary and qualitative methods can add richness to quantitative method and vice versa in understanding the problems in sexual health of adolescent which will be useful for development of appropriate sex education programs.

Key Words: Multi-disciplinary research; Adolescents' sexuality; Urban slums; Sex workers





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