



Labour market and Employment in Sri Lanka: Synopsis of Trends and Challenges

In Sri Lanka, most labourers are either self-employed or wage-earning workers. The country has promulgated several development projects to uplift the socio-economic conditions of the labour force and their dependents. This study focuses on how far the labour market and employment are uplifted through the various policies of the successive governments formed in the country. Furthermore, this study attempts to do a socio-economic analysis on the characteristics of the active labour force as well as the trends and challenges of the labour market in Sri Lanka. According to the Annual Report of Labour Force Survey - 2019, the estimated active labour population was 8.6 million in Sri Lanka. What is the contribution of the agricultural sector in generating employment opportunities for the growing labour force in the country? To what extent has the expansion of various industrial sectors attracted local labourers for employment? Why do a considerable population of our work force migrate to Gulf countries for employment and how does it contribute to the Sri Lankan economy? This study seeks to address these concerns by examining the data drawn from the Census Report 2011, the Annual Report of Labour Force Survey-2019 and the ILO Report on Labour.

22nd November 2021
2:00 PM via Zoom



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Moderator : Dr. S. Pathmanesan

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Professor A.S.Chandrabose is attached to the Department of Social Studies of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL). His research interests are plantation economy, rural labour, issues of minority communities and the Indian Tamil culture in Sri Lanka. He has contributed several book chapters and published research articles locally and internationally. He is constantly writing about the socio-economic issues of the plantation workers. He has visited Lund University, Sweden, Kyoto and Utsunomiya Universities in Japan to deliver lectures for postgraduate students and also used his two years of sabbatical leave to serve as a Senior Lecturer in Geography at the Department of Geography at University of Peradeniya. He has been engaged as a Board Member of the New Villages Development Authority for Plantation Region by the Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development. He is currently leading the research project on abandoned tea estates in Sri Lanka.



Guest Lecture-2021/2
Faculty Research Committee
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Media dependency, interpersonal communication channels and panic during the **COVID-19** Movement Control Order

Digital media, conventional media and interpersonal communication as mediums of information on COVID-19 might play a role in spreading panic among the population. The paper aims to determine the extent of panic caused by information about COVID-19 obtained from media and interpersonal communication among Malaysians. The paper also traces the dependency of people on online media while confined to their homes during the Movement Control Order (MCO). The study employed a quantitative approach. An online survey using Google doc was used to collect data from 253 respondents across Malaysia. The findings reveal that most of the respondents' source of panic was exposure to reports from online media (Internet and social media). The themes that emerged for online activities during MCO include buying and selling online, reading and searching for information online, teaching and learning online, working from home, spending time with family, house and compound cleaning, and gardening. Essentially, it is ironic that the online media which contributes to the general public panic is also a vital source of information on COVID-19 and a means of carrying on life routines in a lockdown.



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Biography

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ali Salman is a senior lecturer and researcher at the Department of Humanities, Faculty of Language Studies and Human Development, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan. Dr. Ali has conducted substantial research relating to New Media, Digital Inclusion and New media and Democracy. He has extensively published his work in SCOPUS and ISI journals throughout his academic career. Ali is currently the Chief Editor for Journal Insaniah and is also serving as an editorial board member and associate editor for various academic journals including Journal of Communication Education (JCE), Journal of Asia Pacific Communication (JAPC) and has served as a Chief Editor for eBangi journal for five years.

16th August 2021
11: AM via Zoom



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