2023
Student Research
Symposium

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 3rd STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

25th August 2023

The Open University of Sri Lanka

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2023 (HSSSRS - 2023)

"New Directions in the Humanities and Social Sciences"

PROCEEDINGS

of the

3rd Student Research Symposium of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Volume I

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

25th August 2023

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Message from the Vice Chancellor
The Open University of Sri Lanka

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings and best wishes for the 3rd Student Research Symposium (SRS) organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL). The Faculty Research Committee (FRC) of the HSS holds a prominent place in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and has spearheaded a series of outcome-oriented activities such as Faculty Research Communication, Guest Lecture Series, Seminars and Workshops, all of which provide a platform for academics, undergraduates and postgraduate students to share and discuss their research findings with a wider audience. Furthermore, the Faculty of HSS aims to strengthen the research culture and enhance theoretical and methodological approaches of the student community through organizing student research symposiums. I strongly believe that this student research symposium would enable the students not only to enhance their discipline-oriented knowledge but also to develop their presentation and communication skills which would eventually contribute to their professional and career advancement.

I take this opportunity to commend the efforts of the organizing committee behind this important and timely event. Further, I appreciate the untiring efforts of all contributors to this event who have immensely invested their time and energy in making this event a success. I strongly believe that this symposium will serve as a catalyst for instilling a vibrant research culture within the university. It has created networking opportunities for academics, undergraduates and postgraduate students, enabling them to share their research findings and explore new horizons of research in Humanities and Social Sciences.

I extend my best wishes for the success of the symposium.

Prof. P.M.C. Thilakerathne

Vice-Chancellor

The Open University of Sri Lanka

Message from the Dean
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Dear Esteemed Students,

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. It is with immense pride and excitement that I extend my warmest welcome to all of you to our biennial Student Research Symposium. This event stands as a testament to your dedication, hard work, and intellectual curiosity.

This symposium is a remarkable platform that showcases the exceptional research endeavors undertaken by our talented learners. It is a culmination of your relentless pursuit of knowledge, your innovative thinking, and your commitment to pushing the boundaries of what is known. Each presentation stands as a testament to the countless hours of rigorous investigation, the sleep-deprived nights invested in data analysis, the time devoted for reading in libraries, and the collaborative efforts that have led to these remarkable discoveries.

In today's world, where information flows ceaselessly and opportunities are abound, your active participation in this symposium is a testament to your readiness to shape the future of our society. By engaging in insightful research and presenting your findings, you make a valuable contribution not only to the academic community but also to the broader society and industry that may benefit from your insights and discoveries.

Remember that research is not just about finding answers; it is also about asking the right questions. It is about exploring the unknown, challenging assumptions, and fostering a spirit of inquiry that leads to transformative change. Your presence here today signifies that you have embraced this spirit and are on a journey that extends far beyond this symposium. The skills you have honed, the experiences you have gained, and the connections you have established will undoubtedly serve you well in your future endeavors.

I encourage you to engage actively during the symposium – asking questions, sharing your viewpoints, and engaging in fruitful discussions while respecting the dedicated efforts of the researchers involved.

This symposium provides opportunities for learning, growth, and collaboration, allowing ideas to flourish and connections to be forged. Your interactions here might lead to unexpected insights, inspire new directions for research, or even spark lifelong friendships and collaborations.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the academics who have guided and supported you throughout your research journey. Their expertise, guidance, and unwavering dedication have played a pivotal role in shaping your research projects into the remarkable contributions they have become today.

 I invite all participants to immerse yourselves in the wealth of knowledge and innovation on display today. Be open to new ideas, be inspired by the passion of our students, and engage in conversations that transcend disciplines and boundaries.

As we embark on this symposium, let us embrace the spirit of inquiry, exploration, and growth. May this event serve as a reminder that education is a lifelong journey, and the pursuit of knowledge knows no limits.

I wish all participants a fulfilling and enlightening experience during this symposium. Let us revel in the joy of discovery and the excitement of shared learning.

Prof. Anton Piyarathne

Dean/ Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
The Open University of Sri Lanka

Message from the Conference Chair
HSS Student Research Symposium 2023

I consider it a great privilege to share this message at the 3rd Humanities and Social Sciences Student Research Symposium (HSSSRS 2023). I am delighted that we are able to hold this Symposium at this stage since unprecedented national problems such as the Covid 19 Pandemic and socio-political uprisings delayed many productive activities. The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) with four distinct departments is equipped with academic specializations that enable our scholars to address most of these contemporary problems in a manner that will enliven the mission of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Faculty Research Committee of the HSS organized the First Student Research Symposium in 2017 providing a formidable platform for our students to share their intellectual insights in harmony with the ethos of our faculty to grow in a pluralistic environment. This symposium is biennially organized to strengthen the research culture within the faculty of HSS and provide feedback for ongoing student research projects; develop student skills in research communication which is a vital part of university life. I am confident that both undergraduate and postgraduate students will fully leverage the potential offered by these opportunities.

The theme for this Research Symposium is "New Directions in the Humanities and Social Sciences" which will be pursued through several panels with over 50 presentations. The theme is reflective of changes that are taking place within society as well as within various disciplines represented in the faculty. This will be immensely useful since Sri Lanka is going through a period of tremendous political, social, economic, and cultural changes, generating considerable anxiety, uncertainty as well as hopelessness. Our students have covered a range of topics on different issues that reflect the major theme of this symposium. I believe that it is the responsibility of our faculty to explain these changes with a view to facilitate the effective transformation of the nation to ensure growth and prosperity. The research

papers demonstrate a wide range of methodological and theoretical approaches that help to dissect complex problems and issues confronting contemporary Sri Lanka.

During this symposium, the best paper presentations will be selected and commended at each session. Moreover, the best performing undergraduate students in the faculty will be presented with the Dean's List Awards. I truly hope that the OUSL academic community will benefit from this symposium, and I wish the presenters the very best in their search for excellence in research.

Dr. Pathmanesan Sanmugeswaran

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The realization of this Symposium Proceedings has been made possible through the dedicated contributions of numerous individuals. We, the conference organizing committee, extend our heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Anton Piyarathne, the Dean of the Faculty, for his exceptional leadership and unwavering support in putting together this symposium. Our sincere appreciation also goes to the Vice Chancellor of the Open University, whose enthusiasm ensured that we received optimal administrative and financial backing, ensuring the success of this endeavour.

We extend our profound thanks to the Session Chairs and Discussants for their invaluable input, which enabled the selection of the best paper awards from each session. An appreciative mention is also extended to the diligent members of the organizing Committee of HSSSRS 2023. This achievement is a culmination of collaborative efforts between the esteemed faculty and dedicated students from all four departments.

We acknowledge the crucial role played by Ms. J.A.P.S. Perera is coordinating with the Centre for Educational Technology and Media (CETMe) and the Web-administrator of the Open University in creating visual, audio and video material for promoting the symposium through diverse channels. Additionally, we express our thanks to Ms. K.S. Gunasekara for her invaluable assistance in compiling the list of reviewers.

Lastly, we extend our gratitude to the following individuals for their remarkable services and contributions: Mr. K. Lokuge, for his creation of the Symposium Website as an integral part of the Faculty Website; Mr. D.H.S. Jayalath, for his design of the Symposium Flyer, Banners, and Certificates; Mr. S.H. Daladawatta, for his work on the Workshop Flyer; Ms. H.Y.H Caldera, for her exceptional design of the Symposium Folder and Proceedings cover and editing the Flyer and updating subsequent revisions; Ms. S.V. Withanage, for her efforts in publicizing and promoting the symposium across various social media platforms; and finally, Mr. E. H. Chamila Nilan, Mr. U.G.C.G.B. Tennakoon, Mr. H. H. M. Padmakumara, and Mr. R. M. D. Yoshitha Udaya Kumara, for their collaborative efforts in creating the HSSSRS 2023 Promotional Video. In conclusion, it has to be acknowledged that the successful realization of the symposium and these proceedings is a testimony to the collective dedication and commitment of all those involved.

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LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

A CASE STUDY ON ENHANCING THE SPEAKING COMPETENCY IN ENGLISH OF POST-A/L STUDENTS THROUGH TASK-BASED APPROACH AT LEADING PRIVATE INSTITUTE

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ABSTRACT

Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT) is an approach that is used to teach English as a Second Language. This approach facilitates active usage of English language by creating practical situations in a second language (L2) learning classroom. The main objective of this research study is to investigate the application and outcomes of TBLT in language teaching to enhance the speaking competency of second language learners, focusing on grammar, vocabulary, content, relevance, pronunciation and ability of interaction. This study further attempts to design different tasks using TBLT approach and investigate the effectiveness of those tasks for successful enhancement of speaking skills of this selected sample. This research was conducted at one of the leading private institutes in Colombo and, 12 post-A/L students participated in this study. They were interviewed to study their perspectives, needs and concerns prior to the initiation of TBLT approach. Then the intervention commenced with the approach presented in the research study by Dewanthi et al. (Dewanti, Rafli & Safitri, 2020) for 6 days. This study used a mixed-method research design and data were collected using qualitative and quantitative methods. A pre-test and a post-test were conducted to assess their speaking competency. The marks of the pre-test and the post-test were analyzed and compared to find whether there were any significant improvements of the speaking skills after implementing TBLT in the teaching-learning process. The study revealed a considerable improvement in the speaking performance of the sample, especially in the areas of vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar and ability to interact. However, content and relevance made lower improvements compared to the aforementioned areas. In addition, observations during 'tasks' also revealed a positive impact of the TBLT approach in enhancing the speaking skills.

Key words: TBLT, tasks, mixed-method research, speaking, intervention.

AN ECHO OF 'TRAUMA' IN LITERARY TEXTS: A RE-READING OF MEDAWATTEGEDARA'S SHORT-FICTION FOR TEXTUAL REPRESENTATION OF TRAUMA

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ABSTRACT

'Trauma' has been gaining ground as a disciplinary branch of literary and cultural studies in the late 20th century possibly owing to the thick concentration of conflicts during the period. Sri Lanka was no exception. Two violent youth insurrections and a protracted civil war inspired imaginative fiction writers to explore 'trauma' in their narratives. In the context of Sri Lankan literature written in English Lal Medawattegedara's short fiction could be identified as texts that explore 'traumatic experiences' related to Sri Lankan life in the late 90s. The present study focuses on the depiction of trauma as a textual phenomenon in Medawattegedara's short fiction. Although Medawattegedara's short fiction has been subjected to readings of trauma, such studies only treated 'trauma' as a generalized passing event and avoids comprehensive focus on textual aspects of 'trauma' and its representation. This study attempts to fill this research gap by undertaking a study of literary trauma as a broad textual phenomenon through a re-reading of short stories from Medawattegedara's two books *Can You Hear Me Running* and *The Window Cleaner's Soul*. Through trauma discourses proposed by theorists such as Cathy Caruth, Judith Herman, Stef Craps and Gret Buelens, this study intends to undertake a close analysis of the 'trauma' as expounded textually by the author. All these theorists locate 'trauma' as an event which draws on and builds up a deep psychological experience upon events that challenge the identity of the victim as well as the perpetrator. How does Medawattegedara capture 'trauma' textually? How does that trauma affect the identity of the protagonist/s? What does that 'trauma' narrate about the nation and its people? And what does 'trauma' tend to achieve textually in imaginative fiction? This study intends to locate the answers to these questions using a theoretical re-reading of the texts under focus.

Keywords: Trauma, Short Fiction, Re-reading, Conflict, Nation

AN INVESTIGATION OF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF ONLINE TEACHING ON DEVELOPMENT OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE: THE TEACHERS' PERSPECTIVES

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ABSTRACT

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 led to many people around the world facing travel restrictions and confining most of their activities including education to their homes. Therefore, online education was initiated as a solution for the continuous provision of education, as it was the only feasible solution to provide education for over two years. Yet, online education was unfamiliar to both the teachers and the students, which created difficulties in implementing online teaching. Many research have been implemented on the online system of education around the world, but limited studies have been done in the Sri Lankan context using secondary school teachers as the sample group. Thus, the purpose of this study is to examine the positive and negative effects of online teaching for the development of English as a second language, through the perspectives of the teachers. The study mainly focuses on developing language components such as reading, writing, listening, speaking, grammar and vocabulary. Primarily, the researcher attempts to find the answer to the research question whether there are any positive and negative effects of online teaching on English language development. Specifically, the researcher aims to find the answer for the research question whether online teaching is helpful in developing language skills of the students along with the satisfaction of the teachers. The researcher has taken a sample group of ten teachers who are teaching English as a second language for secondary classes in a government school. Data collected through interviews and questionnaires are analyzed using the mixed method: a descriptive analysis and a thematic analysis. The results suggest that language can be developed using online platforms, yet there are negative effects as well. The researcher has made suggestions to improve online teaching methods and for further studies.

Keywords: online education, positive and negative effects, language components, teacher perspectives

A STUDY ON CHINESE CULTURE TEACHINGS FOR SRI LANKAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS: THE CASE OF TWO STATE UNIVERSITIES IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

The learning and teaching of the Chinese language have been growing at an unprecedented pace worldwide in recent years. From the perspective of second language learners, successful language acquisition and mastery of the target language depend on the process of language acquisition and a better understanding of the target language's culture. The history of teaching Chinese as a foreign language has shown that effective language teaching is often supported by effective cultural teaching. The absence of cultural teaching has a negative impact on the productivity of foreign language instruction (Cheng Shuqiu & Zheng Hongzong, 2008). This study aims to identify the problems in the teaching of Chinese culture at leading universities in Sri Lanka that offer specialized degrees in the Chinese language. The goal is to improve the standard of teaching. A questionnaire was distributed to 60 students, including both specialized and general Chinese language degree students, at the University of Kelaniya and Sabaragamuwa in Sri Lanka. Additionally, interviews were conducted with 10 Chinese language learners studying at the two universities, as well as 2 local teachers and 2 native Chinese teachers who deliver lectures on the subject of "Chinese Culture." Through data analysis, the researcher identified several problems that require attention. The first problem is the absence of a standardized curriculum syllabus, resulting in ambiguity regarding the scope and depth of course content. Other issues include unplanned teaching processes, impractical teaching methods, and a lack of professionalism and applicability in cultural teaching materials. To address these problems, the researcher provides several suggestions: improving the syllabus and course content related to Chinese culture, optimizing teaching methods, effectively utilizing teaching materials, enhancing teaching approaches, and strengthening teachers' cultural knowledge. The primary objective of this study is to offer useful references for the future enhancement of teaching both the Chinese language and Chinese culture in Sri Lanka.

Key words: Chinese culture; culture teaching; Teaching methods; Sabaragamuwa University; University of Kelaniya

HOW THE MALAY ETHNIC IDENTITY IS CONSTRUCTED IN SRI LANKAN ENGLISH LITERATURE: A STUDY OF RIZVINA MORSETH DE ALWIS'S NOVEL *IT'S NOT IN THE STARS*

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ABSTRACT

History had recorded the origins, development and co-existence of the multi-cultural communities of Sri Lanka. The colonial invasions of the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English introduced additional communities to the country. The Malays were brought by the Dutch mainly as soldiers. The minority Sri Lankan Malay community is tightly knit with unique characteristics. Research has been carried out on ethnic communities of the country in countless aspects. The diverse ethnicities have been represented in fiction in local and diasporic literature. The Sri Lankan Malay community has been subject to anthropological studies under various discourses, however, there is a void in this area. This study attempts to fill this research gap by undertaking an analysis of the Malay identity of the fictional Sri Lankan Malay female character created by Rizvina Morseth De Alwis in her novel *It's not in the Stars*. The novel revolves around the lives of three friends of different ethnicities and how their lives are inextricably rooted together. The protagonist of the novel, a Sri Lankan Malay female, represents the Sri Lankan Malay identity of the community. This study intends to undertake an analysis of the representation of the Sri Lankan Malay identity through a close reading of De Alwis's novel taking into account post-colonial discourses proposed by theorists such as Edward Said, Homi Bahbah and Gayatri Spivak. Orientalism theories of Said, emphasize the misrepresentation of the orient by Europeans to rationalize colonial rule. Whereas, the cultural hybridity theories of Bahbah describe the cultures as "in-between", being interstitial spaces among individuals and cultures. While Spivak argues that they have no platform to voice their concerns. This study intends to investigate the author's creation of a Sri Lankan Malay identity for the fictional female character and the character's interaction with female characters of other ethnicities in the novel.

Keywords: Malay, Fiction, Representation, Identity, Minority

ISLAMOPHOBIA IN ONLINE DISCOURSE: AN ANALYSIS OF INTERACTIONS ON FACEBOOK POSTS FOLLOWING THE EASTER BOMBINGS IN 2019 IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

The Easter bombings in 2019 in three churches and four hotels in Sri Lanka killed at least 259 people including 45 foreign nationals, and wounded hundreds more, consequently catalysing Islamophobia against Sri Lankan Muslims. The primary sources used to convey these social antipathies were social media. However, despite the increased importance of social media in the (re)production of discursive power in society, there is very little research conducted to investigate how language and online discourse played a role in inciting hatred and violence after the Easter attack. Therefore, this study employs a thematic analysis to critically examine the social media discourse from April 2019 to December 2020, primarily based on interactions in Facebook news articles regarding Islamophobic discourse following the Easter attack on 21st April 2019, in Sri Lanka. The research examines how language and linguistic strategies have been employed to express anti-Muslim sentiment and anti-Islam rhetoric, amplifying the existing religious and racial stereotypes and prejudice, thus treating Muslims and Islam negatively.

The study shows that the usages of anti-Muslim and anti-Islam words appeared multiple times in comments and were used frequently, confirming the existence of Islamophobic discourse among interactors. The social context of these attributes and associated terms are rather hostile, highly profane with racial slur and stereotypical views targeted at the Muslim community to hurt and provoke them. The most common themes in these interactions were Muslims and Islam. They were presented as 'others' who do not belong with the 'Sinhalese majority'. Islam has been described as a religion which propagates violence and extremism. Verbal abuse and threat were employed to intimidate Muslims and non-Muslims who do not engage in Islamophobic rhetoric, while polarising the communities in the country.

A close analysis of the language used in these interactions shows how various linguistic strategies are employed to construct negative images of Muslims and Islam, which are strikingly similar to the previous research conducted in other parts of the world, indicating that Islamophobia is a growing trend that needs to be addressed immediately at a global level. The recent declaration by the United Nations for an International Day to Combat Islamophobia and commemorate the Christchurch killings in New Zealand in 2019 could be seen as an effective initiative to address the issue.

Keywords: Islamophobia, social media, Facebook, language, Easter bombings, Sri Lanka.

MOTIVATIONAL ASPECTS OF STUDENTS LEARNING ENGLISH LITERATURE VIA ONLINE MODE: A CASE STUDY OF AMAL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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ABSTRACT

Due to COVID-19, increased demands have been placed on education institutes for radical instructional pedagogies to face challenging contexts and sustain the learning continuum. In this context, online learning emerged as a powerful learning mode, offering a convergence of technological advancements with active and collaborative learning. Despite the surge in the use of various digital platforms and applications which enabled the continuation of erudition, most stakeholders do not seem comfortable replacing face-to-face teaching and learning with new modes of teaching/learning. This study investigates the motivational aspects of students learning English Literature in secondary education since it is (uncritically) accepted that literature is better taught in an onsite classroom with teachers and students being present. Primary data for this study was collected using a qualitative method of survey research through semi-structured interviews and questionnaires from GCE O/L students at Amal International School. The participants offered mixed notions on the issue based on individual experiences and perspectives as learners of literature through online exposure. The primary findings suggested that onsite classrooms were perceptibly preferred by students, where they felt the motivation to learn literature was more immediate when compared to online learning. The study also found that blended learning (a teaching strategy conjoining face-to-face instruction with online learning in a single environment), could be used to improve the learning environment in terms of teaching and learning. Furthermore, the study revealed that increasing English language abilities, and combining face-to-face and ICT- mediated activities alongside the integration of synchronous and asynchronous learning tools to transform learning into an enjoyable act, could help to foster student motivation in learning literature in English. The results of this study have implications for students and teachers of English Literature where a blended learning-teaching culture could foster a better mode of teaching and learning literature.

Keywords: Motivation, English Literature, Online Learning Literature Pedagogy, Collaborative Learning

PERCEPTIONS OF STAKEHOLDERS ON SPEAKING SKILLS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE CURRICULUM FOR GRADE 10: A STUDY ON A GOVERNMENT SCHOOL IN RATNAPURA EDUCATIONAL ZONE

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ABSTRACT

Speaking is one of the foremost skills which should be achieved by the ESL leaners, as it plays a prominent role in variety of fields. Moreover, speaking plays a vital role in the second language classroom as the ability to communicate one's own ideas, is an essential factor determining language proficiency. But the local English language curriculum itself is unable to produce the fluent speakers at the school level. The present research was done to understand the perceptions of the stakeholders on speaking skills of English language curriculum for grade 10. Since this is a case study, the information gathered from a school in Ratnapura educational zone. Random sample of fifty students from grade 10 class and two teachers who are teaching in grade 10 from the same school took part in the survey as the stakeholders. Two research instruments were used to collect information. They were 1.Questionnaire for Students and 2.Questionnaire for the teachers. Using these instruments, quantitative data as well as qualitative data were collected. The results of the survey emphasizes that the local English curriculum itself is mostly focused on providing English vocabulary, grammar and comprehension but lacks proper activities in enhancing the use of the language in oral communication. Though the students really need to enhance the speaking skill, they are unable, as the school was deprived of essential facilities to provide the necessary training to students. The teachers who took part in the survey mentioned under suggestions that the speaking skill should be evaluated at the national level examinations to motivate the students and teachers to improve the speaking skill. The findings of the survey further deprives that Only 18% and 12% competency levels have been allocated for speaking and listening respectively while 70% of competency levels have been allocated for reading and writing. Therefore, more competency levels and well-planned activities should be included to the curriculum in order to achieve expected outcomes. Moreover, the number of periods allocated for speaking is not enough to improve the speaking skills.

So, the analysis of the data revealed that the prevailing English language curriculum for grade 10, is unable to improve the speaking skill of the students. According to the perceptions of the students and teachers, the time duration, competency levels and the activities included in the prevailing grade 10 English language curriculum are not sufficient and interesting to improve the speaking skill of the students. The suggestions convince that the curriculum should be revised with well planned activities and adequate time duration for the speaking skill.

Keywords: English as the Second Language (ESL), Speaking, Stakeholders, Perceptions, Curriculum

REPRESENTATION OF THE SINHALA ETHNIC COMMUNITY IN DIASPORIC NOVELS ON JULY 1983: A STUDY OF *FUNNY BOY AND JULY*

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ABSTRACT

The racial violence of July 1983, which abruptly devastated the lives of Tamil speaking civilians and left them homeless, was a culmination of the simmering ethnic animosities between the Sinhala and Tamil communities in Sri Lanka. These events of July 1983 became a central theme in works of literature by local, Lankan diasporic and non-native writers. Yet, the focus of such literature was the victimized Tamil ethnic community and as a result, the existing academic research on this work too focuses on the same community. The present study wishes to deviate from such a focus to locate and understand how the Sinhala ethnic community is represented in novels whose focus is the events of July 1983. Two diasporic novels, *Funny Boy* by Shyam Selvadurai and *July* by Karen Roberts, are selected for this purpose in the study. Scholarly studies conducted on the novels typically highlight the themes of discrimination and marginalization of subjugated groups in Sri Lankan society. This study, incorporating post-structuralist theory and employing the reading methodology advocated by Pierre Macherey, attempts to go beyond the text and investigate the 'silence' of key Sinhala characters in the novels, in order to discern the modes of representation of the Sinhala ethnic community in events connected to July 1983. How do these novels portray Sinhala characters? What is their role in the ethnic tensions of July 1983? Do the novels attempt to reconcile the two antagonistic ethnic groups? If so, how? This study is an attempt to answer these questions.

Key words: Ethnic Conflict, July 1983, Diasporic Novels, Representation

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MOTIVATION FOR LEARNING CHINESE LANGUAGE AS A SUBJECT AND LEARNING ACHIEVEMENT OF ADVANCED LEVEL STUDENTS IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

As China continues to rise as a global economic and trading power, the demand for learning the Chinese language in Sri Lanka has increased significantly. Over the course of several decades, Chinese language education in Sri Lankan secondary and high schools has evolved into a mature system. The present study aimed to investigate the level of motivation in Chinese language acquisition, Chinese language achievement, and the relationship between motivation and language performance among high school students in Sri Lanka. The study included a randomly selected sample of 180 students who were currently studying Chinese as a subject for their Advanced Level examination. Employing a quantitative research methodology, the study utilized a questionnaire and an advanced level examination model paper to assess motivational goal orientation and Chinese achievement. The quantitative analysis focused on three main components: the level of motivation in language acquisition, the level of Chinese language achievement, and the relationship between motivation and language performance. The findings indicated that students exhibited a high level of motivation in learning Chinese as a subject for their advanced level examination. Moreover, the study demonstrated that students achieved commendable proficiency in the Chinese language. Notably, a significant relationship was identified between students' motivation for learning Chinese and their language performance. The research also highlighted the influential roles of students' active engagement in language acquisition activities, the perceived value of Chinese language skills in future careers, and the support received from teachers and peers in shaping their motivation. Furthermore, the study found that setting specific language learning goals and receiving positive reinforcement were important factors contributing to students' motivation. These findings provide valuable insights into enhancing students' motivation, promoting their Chinese language learning outcomes. Based on the findings, recommendations are made to enhance students' motivation, expectancy, and self-efficacy in Chinese language learning.

Additionally, areas for further research are identified to expand our understanding of this subject.

THE REPRESENTATION OF FOLK BELIEFS IN WOOLF'S *THE VILLAGE IN THE JUNGLE-* A CRITICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Folklore as an academic discipline has evolved considerably over time, gaining the attention and contribution of numerous folklorists, sociologists and anthropologists. Even though folklore has sustained presence in Sri Lankan Literature in English, (the latest example being the 2023 Booker Prize winning novel *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida* by Shehan Karunaratne), there is a dearth of studies focusing on folklore embedded in literary texts. It is in this context, this researcher examines folklore events inscribed in the early 20th century novel, *The Village in the Jungle* by Leonard Woolf. Though this novel has come under intense scrutiny for its post-colonial thematics, it has not yet been given a folkloric focus. This structured study of folklore thus attempts to locate folk beliefs encapsulated in the novel in the guise of 'fear of the jungle', evil-eye', 'charms and magic spells' and 'devils and deities'. The primary objective of this analysis is to examine Woolf's attitude towards folk beliefs of the colonial subjects in Ceylon, with the idea that such attitudes will also encapsulate his own ideas about the colonial aspiration towards the colonized nation. Hence, folkloric incidents in the novel are located and analysed utilizing Alan Dundes' folklore theory: 'Folklore is a mirror of culture' (Dundes, 2007) and S.G. Samarasinghe's theory: 'Folklore as a traditional wisdom in Sri Lanka'(Samarasinghe, S.G.), as the methodology of this study to read the colonial mindset and to pursue the cultural identity of the people in the particular social context. Moreover, textual clues embedded in the novel are surfaced and incorporated with folkloric theories to identify the writer's subtle use of language in representing his attitude.

Keywords: Folklore, Colonial Aspirations, Folklorists, Cultural Identity, Folk Beliefs

WHAT FEATURES OF SRI LANKAN ENGLISH ARE ACCEPTABLE TO UNDERGRADUATESTUDENTS OF ENGLISH?

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ABSTRACT

Teachers of English Language in Sri Lankan Schools, academics, authors, material providers for ESL syllabi, educational policy makers and other users of English language in Sri Lanka are faced with a host of unanswered, ambiguous, questions regarding the acceptability of sentence constructions which come under the general term 'Sri Lankan English'. This research is an attempt to measure the acceptability of twenty (20) uniquely Sri Lankan sentence constructions documented by Michael Meyler in his 'ADictionary of Sri Lankan English' (2007). The study explores whether these, twenty (20) specially selected, uniquely Sri Lankan constructions that differ from British English in syntax, are accepted without degrading or agitating the age-old norms of British English, from which it evolved. As living languages are in eternal flux, it is the acceptance of its users that forms the standard and establishes it for codification. The instrument used is a questionnaire sent to undergraduates studying for a BA (English) degree in a Sri Lankan University. The resulting concepts are further clarified through personal interviews with chosen individuals from among the undergraduates and various other fields to ascertain whether there is a visible difference between their attitudes. Findings indicate a reluctance to accept certain constructions and lend credence to the differential standards applied to speech and writing by undergraduates as well as others who were consulted.

Keywords: ESL syllabi, British English, Sri Lankan English, Living Languages, Syntax

LAW AND SOCIETY

A CALL TO ADOPT GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) TO PROTECT FORESTS IN SRI LANKA: A CASE STUDY IN THRIKONAMADU FOREST IN POLONNARUWA DISTRICT, SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

One of the main environmental problems that Sri Lanka is facing today is Forest clearing. National Environmental Act is a major mechanism to manage and control this problem. Government Development and Cultivation Projects have decreased high percentage of forest cover in Sri Lanka. A Geographic Information System (GIS) is a term introduced in the latter half of the 1960s by Roger Tomlinson. A geographic information system (GIS) is a computer system for capturing, storing, checking, analyzing and displaying data related to positions on Earth's surface. The main objective of this research involves combining GIS and environmental law to enable remote detection of illegal deforestation, immediate enforcement of law and supporting legal decision making. Primary and Secondary Data were used for this study specially Landsat satellite images and section 2,3,4,5 of Part I in Gazette No 772/22 published under the National Environment Act etc. Landsat Satellite images were processed using ArcGIS 10.3. The NDVI Index is the method that was used to identify deforestation using Landsat satellite images in the Thrikonamadu Forest Area. The research findings reveal that it was possible to identify illegal forest destructions in inaccessible places and implement the law under the National Environment Act or immediately stop the destructions. This study recommends that GIS technology is a method that can immediately implement the law not only against deforestation but also against much of the illegal environmental destruction that takes place in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: National Environmental Act, Geographic Information System, Deforestation

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ON WHETHER THE EXISTING LAW IN SRI LANKA IS ADEQUATE TO PROTECT THE TRANSGENDER RIGHTS COMPARED WITH INDIAN JURISDICTION

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ABSTRACT

The transgender community is known to have existed since Egyptian, Roman and Mughal eras. They have become a collective political identity now. In the modern world many countries have enacted constitutional provisions for their rights and international compromises can also be found. Even so, transgender people are facing many difficulties such as gender discrimination, susceptibility to gender dysphoria, working in the sex industry and constant exposure to abuses, harassments and violence. Meanwhile, India provides the best illustration to protect, promote and respect their rights. In this regard, the existing law in Sri Lanka is insufficient to protect transgender rights. Therefore, the research problem of this research is to examine whether the existing law in Sri Lanka is sufficient to protect transgender rights. Research objectives are (1) to analyze the existing law in the transgender rights in Sri Lanka, (2) to compare and contrast the existing Sri Lankan law with the Indian Jurisdiction, (3) and to suggest recommendations to protect transgender rights. This research is a qualitative research based on documentary analysis and concludes that the current law is insufficient to adequately protect transgender rights in Sri Lanka. Hence, imperative adjustments should be made by revising the provisions that consider sexual orientation as a legal offence.

Keywords: Transgender Rights, Sri Lankan Existing Laws, Gender Discrimination, Indian Jurisdiction

A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE APPLICABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL) ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) BASED CYBER-ATTACKS IN WARTIME

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the extent to which the existing international humanitarian law (IHL) is applicable to AI-based cyber-attacks in wartime. With the increasing use of AI in the military, it is important to understand the legal implications of these developments and how they align with existing IHL. In this context, this research primarily addresses the research question of whether existing laws can prosecute perpetrators who are liable for AI-based cyber-attacks in wartime. To answer this question, the paper thoroughly examines two sub-research questions. The first sub-research question focuses on the applicability of precaution, distinction, and proportionality principles to AI-based cyber-attacks. The second sub-research question addresses the issue of human responsibility for AI-based cyber-attacks. This is a crucial issue as AI systems are designed and operated by humans, and the question of who is responsible for their actions in wartime is not clear. This research comprehensively examines the existing legal principles and theories related to human responsibility for AI-based cyber-attacks in wartime, including the principle of individual criminal responsibility and the concept of command responsibility. This research uses a combination of statutory research, case law analysis, secondary sources such as research, comparative law analysis, and doctrinal research to provide a wholistic view of this issue. Therefore, this research paper makes a significant contribution to this area of study by providing a comprehensive examination of the complex legal landscape surrounding AI-based cyber-attacks in wartime and its compliance with IHL.

Keywords: International Humanitarian Law, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber-attacks, Criminal responsibility, Wartime

ANALYSIS OF FAILURES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHYTOSANITARY LAWS IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

This research is focused on the practical failures of the phytosanitary laws in force in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has implemented a legal framework by enacting quarantine related laws and regulations, such as "Plant Protection Act No. 35 of 1999", "Fauna and Flora Ordinance", "Government Notification Extra Ordinary – Gazette 1981", "Regulated Weed List - NPPO Sri Lanka", to prevent the entry of invasive alien species. This legal framework is the most fundamental step to prevent socio-economic and environmental issues that may occur due to the entry of invasive alien species into the country and become a pest, weed, or disease. However, even while these laws are in force, it can be observed that invasive alien species have entered the country through various methods. For examples, "Giant Mimosa", "Weligama Coconut Leaf Wilt Disease" and "Sena Caterpillar Invasion" can be identified. Through this research, cases where invasive alien species have entered the country in violation of the phytosanitary laws of Sri Lanka have been investigated using qualitative methodology. To this end, a qualitative analysis of agricultural publications, the phytosanitary legal framework and the legal actions taken in cases of violation of the laws was carried out. Sri Lanka's inability to implement the phytosanitary laws in practice at the time of need, failure to bring new legislations, amendments of existing legislations or any other form of legal framework into effect for phytosanitary related emergent situations and at the same time, lack of up-to-date proper legal assessment of the entry of invasive alien species into the country through new methods were revealed through this research. It is recommended in this research to correct the deficiencies identified above and implement phytosanitary laws in Sri Lanka that are up-to-date with the contemporary world.

Keywords: Sri Lankan Phytosanitary Laws, Invasive Species, Plant Protection, Pests and Weeds, Diseases

AN APPRAISAL OF THE ROLE OF FOOD ACT AND RELATED REGULATIONS IN ENSURING FOOD SAFETY IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

The major legislation governing food safety in Sri Lanka is the Food Act of 1980. Compared to other legislative and administrative regulations, implementation of food laws is minimal in Sri Lanka. The study aims to review the capability of the Sri Lankan Food Act to ensure food safety in the current evaluation. The study is conducted by reviewing the research findings regarding the role of the Food Act and related regulations in ensuring food safety. In Sri Lanka, the food industry, law enforcement officials, and consumers' knowledge and compliance with food legislation are unsatisfactory, which has prevented the legislature from achieving its intended objectives. Sri Lanka is placed 75th out of 113 nations in the Global Food Security Index 2020, which evaluates the factors affecting food security. Furthermore, inadequate supervision and a lack of involvement by dedicated food scientists in food authorities may be the cause for inadequate legislation to ensure food safety and food security inside the country. The majority of the time, medical officers of health perform field-based clinics. However, in order to assure food safety, food legislation activities should be under the control of the food authorities. Food additives are governed by Regulations, which were created by the Minister of Health, Nutrition, and Indigenous Medicine in accordance with Section 32 of the Food Act, No. 26 of 1980. The international provisions have been arranged by Codex Food Standards such that they are simple to use and comprehend. Food laws are important in many countries, and some, like Australia and India, have designated officers specially to follow them out. For the well-being of its people, countries, such as India, and the United Kingdom, have strict rules governing food quality. In addition to providing thorough training to individuals who manufacture food products with an emphasis on food safety, legislation should also improve the supervision of food scientists and provide a system to let the public learn specifics about the composition of the food. However, food of inferior quality can be imported for human consumption because Sri Lanka lacks sufficient provisions.

Keywords: Food Law, Food Act of Sri Lanka, Food Safety, Food Security

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A STUDY ON CRIMES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN RURAL SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

Crimes are major issues that affect people living in rural areas. Crimes in these areas make far-reaching consequences weakening the economy and social harmony. The effectiveness of the criminal justice system on rural crimes also influences the perception of rural communities on justice and the rule of law. Rural crimes in Sri Lanka are diverse and include murder, theft, assault, domestic violence, and drug-related offenses. These crimes negatively impact rural areas, causing fear, mistrust, and feelings of insecurity among people. The criminal justice systems also face significant challenges in addressing rural crimes. This study aims to examine the regional criminal justice measures taken to address crimes in the Kananke Police Division in the Matara district. This study has used qualitative data collection techniques on primary and secondary sources. Accordingly, the number of crimes reported in the location is of drugs and alcohol. As per the number of cases reported to the police, no case was reported in association with Heroin in 2017; but in 2020, it increased to 46 cases. As observations, Heroin, Cannabis, and Ice are popular among the young crowd while local varieties illegally made in the villages are consumed by middle-aged people and, they act criminally to solve problems with others. Cases of domestic violence and gender discrimination are reported every day and people are also normalized for such crimes. Therefore, villagers including children are at risk. In criminal justice intervention, three types of action are taken by police to solve complaints, including settling the case by the police themselves, directing it to the mediation board, or directly forwarding it to the magistrate courts. Lack of social relations, poverty, and poor education are push factors for crimes. Further, bribery demanded by officials, personal relations, and isolated rurality can be identified as pull factors for crimes.

Key Words: Crimes, Criminal Justice, criminal gang, rurality

CHALLENGES IN APPLYING ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING LAWS IN SRI LANKA, IN THE AREA OF COLOMBO PORT CITY

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ABSTRACT

As per the Financial Action Task Force, 'Money Laundering' is the process by which proceeds from a criminal activity are disguised to conceal their illicit origin. To prevent such unlawful activities, Sri Lanka has enacted different legislations and has formed Finance Intelligence Unit of Central Bank of Sri Lanka as the national agency to combat Money Laundering activities. However, economically high valued investment like Colombo Port City (CPC) project may create a potential haven for money laundering as it allows investment applications to produce foreign currency with funds raised abroad. As authorized offshore companies could also engage in business with Sri Lankan residents outside the Port city, a stronger transparency and Anti Money Laundering law (AML) framework is essential to minimize the associated money laundering risk. Therefore, the objective of this study is to identify the existing Anti Money Laundering related legal framework in Sri Lanka and the challenges in applying the same in the Colombo Port City. The researcher seeks to answer the following questions, i.e, what is AML? what are the existing AML laws in Sri Lanka? What is CPC project, and is there a risk of attracting illicit financial flows by this project? If so, what are the recommended solutions and what are the expected challenges in applying AML laws in the area of CPC? The research follows a qualitative, doctrinal legal research method, which would give prominence to AML statutes and secondary data sources like journals, newspaper articles and other reports etc. In conclusion, the study aims to enhance the understanding of Sri Lanka's AML regulatory framework and its relevance to CPC, proposed AML laws for CPC and the challenges to their application and the necessity of effective implementation of laws to combat money laundering activities in order to maximize the benefits of the Colombo Port City project.

Keywords: Anti-Money Laundering (AML), Colombo Port City (CPC), Sri Lanka

CONNECTION BETWEEN BUDDHIST TEACHINGS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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ABSTRACT

Human rights are moral principles consistently recognized as legal rights by the law of the country and international law. Every human being born in this world regardless of language, religion, ethnicity, sex, etc., has inherited a right that cannot be violated by any legislature or law. Human rights were introduced from the 1945 United Nations Charter and the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. When considering political and legal ideas about human rights, religious beliefs play an important role. For instance, Buddhist philosophy highlights the value of the right to live, the right to be free from punishment, and the freedom of thought. This paper aims to examine Buddhist philosophy about human rights and the manner in which human rights are enshrined in Buddhist teachings. This research has employed a qualitative research methodology. This research emphasizes "the connection between Buddhist teachings and human rights". Buddhism promotes nonviolence and teaches reverence for all forms of life. Respecting and defending the sanctity of life is consistent with the Buddhist principle of ahimsa (non-harm) and can be viewed as an expression of the right to life. Buddhism respects individual autonomy and encourages the pursuit of various philosophical and spiritual paths. The right to choose and practice one's beliefs is consistent with Buddhist teachings on the value of personal inquiry and the pursuit of truth. This emphasizes the Right to Freedom of Thought, Conscience, and Religion. Through "Kalama Sutra" Lord Buddha preached about the value of free conscience. Buddhism emphasizes the inherent worth and equality of all beings. It encourages practitioners to cultivate loving-kindness, compassion, and impartiality towards all people, regardless of social status, gender, or other distinguishing characteristics. It can be concluded as the teachings and philosophy of Buddha are part and parcel of modern-day principles of human rights.

Keywords: Buddha, Buddhist, Human rights, Philosophy, Teachings

COUNTERMEASURES OF PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION FOR MARINE ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

Shipwrecks and oil spills are global issues and Sri Lanka, being a hub of international shipping lines, frequently deals with shipwreck incidents. Cases of Marine Environment Pollution (MEP), such as the X-Press pearl incident, directly infringe on public health, private property rights and cause extensive damage to the marine ecological environment. Most of these damages are irreversible. In the recent past, here has been a significant increase in the number of cases related to both Writs and fundamental rights which emphasize that Sri Lankan courts have satisfactory approaches toward establishing the rule of law in the country. As most of the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) cases are associated with terrestrial ecosystems, it is contradictory to the PIL's involvement in Marine Environment Pollution cases. It might be because of not having a significant consideration towards marine pollution by the public as most of the impacts are indirect such as climate change, natural resource degradation, bioaccumulation of toxic chemicals, etc. This research aims to provide valuable insights and recommendations to inform policy-making, raise public awareness, and guide the implementation of PIL as a powerful tool in mitigating marine pollution in Sri Lanka.

Marine Pollution Prevention Act No. 35 of 2008 is the existing legislation related to marine pollution in Sri Lanka. The Act provides the legal background in Sri Lankan jurisdiction to enforce the UNCLOS and MARPOL conventions while section 35AA of the Act states that a person who commits an offense under this act is guilty of a criminal offense. Qualitative methods such as interviews with legal experts, environmental activists, and stakeholders, and focus group discussions will be used to gather insights and perspectives on PIL's potential in addressing marine pollution. The case study analysis will examine–specific PIL cases from other countries or regions. Then a comparative analysis will be conducted. This analysis will assess the feasibility, challenges, and necessary adaptations required for effective implementation in Sri Lanka.

The recommendations developed through the findings will propose an integration of PIL into Sri Lanka's legal and institutional framework and will highlight the potential benefits, challenges, and required steps for successful implementation. When referring to the recent MEP cases in Sri Lanka, it is clear that the involvement of Sri Lanka's public interest litigation system is not sound. Therefore, there is an urgent need for a proper PIL agenda in Sri Lanka. By utilizing PIL, Sri Lanka can effectively address marine environmental challenges and ensure the sustainable management of its marine resources for present and future generations.

Keywords: PIL, MEP, Marine Pollution Prevention Act, Qualitative Methods

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE LAWS RELATING TO PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

Child abuse is the maltreatment and neglect of children under 18 years of age including physical and emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect and diverse exploitation resulting in actual or potential harm to the health, survival and development of children. While the occurrence of child abuse is a global problem with serious life-long consequences, Sri Lanka continues to battle the issue. This situation warrants an examination of the existing Sri Lankan legal framework related to child abuse cases for its minimization and to sustain justice for the children. In this context, the prime objective of the present research is to critically analyse the Sri Lankan legal regime regarding the prevention of child abuse while identifying shortcomings and omissions in the system and proposing remedial recommendations to strengthen the existing legal framework. The study fundamentally addresses the research question of whether existing legal provisions in Sri Lanka adequately ensure the prevention of child abuse, protecting the social dignity of the child and recommending appropriate punishments to obstruct recurrence. This research employs a doctrinal legal research methodology comprising amalgamation of literature review of primary sources including the 1978 Constitution and legislation, secondary sources and tertiary sources to discover, evaluate, produce rational arguments on coherence, accuracy and to suggest improvements to the available legal framework concerning child abuse cases. Results revealed that despite the prevailing substantial legal provisions in the Sri Lankan legal regime regarding child protection in general, no specific legal remedies exist for the victimized children. Hence in conclusion, the present study highlights the compelling necessity for a critical legal analysis of legal regime on child abuse and the development of remedial legal provisions to safeguard the rights of children. Furthermore, it provides an important contribution the field by extending a comprehensive examination of the intricate legal landscape surrounding child abuse cases in Sri Lanka.

Key Words: Child Abuse, Law and justice, Children's Rights, Legal framework

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IMPACT OF JUDICIARY IN DEVELOPMENT OF LABOUR LAWS IN SRI LANKA SPECIAL REFERENCEC TO LAW OF DISMISSAL

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ABSTRACT

Termination of employment can occur due to several circumstances and such situations have been addressed by several legislations. However, termination of an employee subject to misconduct is not specifically covered by any legislations in the Sri Lankan legal regime. The existing law for termination of an employee is governed by Termination of Employment of Workmen (Special Provisions) Act (TEWA) and Industrial Dispute Act (IDA). TEWA was introduced to govern only non-disciplinary termination issues and it has limited the discretionary power of the employer to terminate an employee without consent of the Labour Commissioner. IDA gives legislative power to the employee to make an application to Labour Tribunal (LT) if such termination is viewed as an injustice. But these two legislations do not include any provision to govern the area of law of dismissal under disciplinary grounds. Taking this into context, courts have intervened to establish justice for those who seek it. This research evaluates the impact of the judiciary to develop the labour law with special reference to the law of dismissal. Due to this background, the objective of this research is to find the impact of Common Laws to develop the Industrial law in Sri Lanka and the possibility of the judiciary playing an effective role in this endeavor. This study will employ a qualitative methodology. Analysis of data will be carried out in a comparative and critical manner taking both domestic and other jurisdictional case laws into account.

Keywords: Impact, Judiciary, Labour law, Sri Lanka

JUDICIAL ACTIVISM TO ENSURE THE RIGHT TO CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT IN SRI LANKA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS WITH INDIA

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ABSTRACT

In order to properly enjoy the human rights that come with being born as a human being, the existence of a good and healthy environment is essential. Human rights are meaningless without a good environment. The relationship between the environment and human rights was internationally recognized by the 1972 Stockholm Declaration. Principle 1 of the Rio Declaration also points out that the right to a better environment is important for sustainable development. However, the Sri Lankan constitution does not explicitly acknowledge the right to a clean and healthy environment. This study will examine whether Sri Lanka's constitution adequately protects the right to nature, whether environmental rights are recognized in domestic law and international law, how broadly the judicial interpretation of ecological rights has extended, and the role of judicial activism in defending the right to nature in Sri Lanka. The research methodology used in this research is the black letter approach of research based on the constitution of Sri Lanka. While international conventions are used as primary sources, journal articles, books, web articles, and case laws are used as secondary sources. The Sri Lankan constitution has not recognized that all citizens have a fundamental right to a better environment. However, directive principles have illuminated the duty of the state and every person to protect and preserve nature. According to the constitution, violation of directive principles cannot be questioned before the court. In this circumstance, the Sri Lankan judiciary system has a vital role in ensuring the right to a clean and healthy environment through case law. However, as demonstrated in cases like *Bulankulama and others v. the Secretary of Industrial Development and Others, Rathnayake Tharanga Lakmali v. Officer-in-Charge, Crime Branch, Embilipitiya Police Station and others, and WatteGedara Wijebanda v. Conservator General of Forest and eight others*, the judiciary in Sri Lanka has played a crucial role in ensuring the right to a clean and healthy environment through judicial interpretation. Courts in India have been able to define environmental rights in a broader sense and even give legal status to nature.

The judiciary in Sri Lanka should further positively define environmental rights. The research recommends ensuring the right to a clean and healthy environment in Sri Lanka through judicial interpretation as a fundamental right.

Keywords: Clean and healthy environment, Judicial activism, Sri Lankan Law, International Law, Indian Law

LEGAL CONCERNS IMPACTING SRI LANKA'S TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

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ABSTRACT

According to societal beliefs and social expectations, there were two basic gender classifications acknowledged. However, by the twenty-first century, society has identified the LGBTQ group, which include the terms Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and others. Different sexualities diversify humanity and create new societies. New communities bring with them new social difficulties and discriminations directed against them. When it comes to the transgender community, there is a large ground to be covered. As an Asian community, Sri Lanka's transgender group is nonetheless socially and legally marginalized, due to different sexualities. As a result, the transgender population is frequently subjected to discrimination and insults while attempting to meet their basic requirements. The methodology of this research was developed primarily through the use of questionnaires and through interviews with members of the transgender community, lawyers, police officers, registrars, prison officers, interested parties (leaders of social organizations, doctors, journalists, Mr. Premnath C. Dolawatta's private bill, and artists), and referred case laws. According to the research findings, the Sri Lankan Transgender Community is confronted with numerous legal challenges. In light of the current legal circumstances, problems of the transgender community in Sri Lanka emerge mainly from specifying gender on birth certificates, national identity cards, and voting lines, in remand/incarceration, and needing to specify a gender that does not match or do not like one's identity. Further, Article 365 of the Sri Lankan Penal Code criminalizes "Carnal Intercourse Against The Order Of Nature" and provides a penalty of up to ten years in prison, while Section 399 of the Penal Code criminalizes cheating "By Pretending To Be Some Other Person," with a penalty of up to three years' imprisonment and a fine. This provision can be used to discriminate against transgender people. Using the Bastard Ordinance (1842) vagrancy laws to arrest for impersonation.

Transgender community is treated differently due to gender transformation. Since they are too are human, it is important that proper legal recognition is given to this community instead of humiliating them and/or making them the laughing stock of society.

Keywords: Legal concerns, Human rights, Transgender communities, humiliating procedures

PRACTICAL ISSUES ON AN ANTICIPATORY BREACH IN CONTRACTS: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Anticipatory breach means an instance where one contractual party repudiates or is unable to enforce the contractual obligations before the fixed date. This breach is different from an actual breach. Under these circumstances, the claimant or innocent party can either accept the breach in an appropriate manner or affirm the contract and demand the performance. This study specifically focuses on entitlement of damage in relation to the innocent party should they decide to accept the repudiation. Subsequently, he may be entitled to claim the damage. However, it may differ from the contract price. The innocent party has the right to sue upon acceptance of the breach. However, not accepting the breach under the supervening event may cause the innocent party to lose this right. In order to mitigate the loss, the court will expect the claimant to mitigate the foreseeable loss and not wait until the last minute. The court will draw a line between wholly unreasonable and unreasonable behaviour of the claimant. The innocent party's liability is where the innocent party accepts the contract and subsequently breaches it by himself. The objective of this research is to understand and identify the ways through which these issues arising from an anticipatory breach may be resolved. While we cannot see absolute remedy or relief for an anticipatory breach, courts will adopt and develop some principles to resolve the issues based on equitable principles.

Keywords: Anticipatory breach, Damages and contract price, unreasonable behaviour, supervening factor, equitable principles

RECONCILING CIVIL LIBERTIES AND STATE SECURITY: A NORMATIVE INQUIRY INTO ADDRESSING INJUSTICE WITHIN THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT & PROPOSED ANTI-TERRORISM BILL

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ABSTRACT

Justice is universally desired, and the experience of injustice evokes strong emotions. Therefore, a society lacking justice as a guiding principle is inherently unstable, relying on coercion for cohesion. Furthermore, the interpretation of law and justice varies over time, lacking a consistent standard. Diversity of justice often deviates from societal and legal consensus. This research is a legal inquiry into the inextricable link between civil liberties, and their reconciliation with the security of the State. Even though the PTA aims to ensure national security by combating terrorism, historically, for decades, the PTA has been weaponized against civil liberties. This has resulted in the victimization of members of society. The paper reiterates that any process which seeks to tackle issues related to the PTA and ATA must address this factor to ensure those adversely affected by the law will receive justice, including reparations.

The research is normative research which is primarily based on an extensive literature review and also the research was carried out using the black letter approach of research using relevant legislations and judicial decisions as primary sources and books with critical analysis, journals, theses, and electronic resources as secondary sources. The paper discusses the strengths and weaknesses of the PTA & ATA. There are inconsistencies and loopholes in the Acts itself which harm national security. A balanced approach is needed to address the flaws and strengths of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). Fair trial rights, access to healthcare, and connection with loved ones should not be overlooked. Additionally, the Act should incorporate mechanisms to identify and counter modern threats. The paper addresses the shortcomings, accordingly, affirming the need to uphold national security in line with international standards and safeguard human rights.

Keywords: PTA, ATA, Prevention of Terrorism, Human Rights, National Security

THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF SCHOOL CHILDREN: FROM MINUWANGODA ZONAL EDUCATION DIVISION

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ABSTRACT

Within the family institution, which is the building block of human society, violent incidents between members can be identified in various forms such as physical, mental, sexual abuse and neglect. Often children can be identified as direct victims. Domestic violence is not just physical abuse, it can be the use of force on the entire family. The impact of domestic violence not only on children but also on children's academic performance is immense. The purpose of this research is to conduct a criminological study of the effect of domestic violence on the academic performance of school children. Although domestic violence takes many forms, the underlying causes are interrelated. This study further aims to present the causes of domestic violence as well as measures to be taken to control and prevent it. In identifying the sample selected for the research on the effect of domestic violence on the academic performance of school children, Minuwangoda President's College was selected for the sample among 15 schools in the Minuwangoda Zonal Education Division of the Gampaha District of the Western Province. This study was conducted through the sample of 540 students between 14-16 years, 55 being 10% of the population. By using school children for the study, it was possible to analytically identify the causes of domestic violence to further legal understanding. Thus, it was noted that there is a relationship between domestic violence and the education level of parents as well as the occurrence of domestic violence and awareness of the different parties involved. In this study, several suggestions were made for the control and prevention of domestic violence.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Academic Performance, Schoolchildren, Criminological Study, Quantitative Research

THE INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION OF SRI LANKA TOWARDS ITS 'WISE USE OF WETLANDS': A LEGAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Wetlands can be considered an important biologically diverse ecosystem in the world. Therefore, almost every country in the world is obliged to preserve wetlands. Sri Lanka signed the Ramsar Convention in 1971 and ratified it in 1990 by being a state party for the sustainable use of wetlands. This is called "wise use of wetlands" which ensures keeping a balance between two conflicting objectives of economic development and environmental conservation. The wise use is defined in the Ramsar Convention as "the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development". The Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance of 1937 can be considered the first step in wetland conservation in Sri Lanka. Mainly, the National Environment act, additionally the National Policy on wetlands in 2005, Wetland Management Unit established in CEA and other several regional and international treaties and conventions support wetland conservation and wise use. Although there is a comprehensive system of many laws for wetlands conservation, Sri Lanka has failed in the implementation of their wise use. Therefore, the main purpose of this study is to analyze to which extent Sri Lanka has been able to fulfill the international legal obligation for "wise use of wetlands". This research also attempts to identify the problems and the causes of failure within the existing legal framework. As the research method, this study uses qualitative and descriptive analysis from a legal point of view. This research uses secondary data sources such as acts and domestic and foreign legislation, case laws, scholarly articles, journal articles, etc. The findings of this research emphasize the need for improved strong separate legislation to conserve and manage wetlands with sustainable development. Proper education and awareness programs for preserving wetlands should be launched to increase the community's responsibility and participation.

Keywords: RAMSAR convention, Wetlands, Wise-use

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

A STUDY ON ADOPTION OF KOHA OPEN - SOURCE SOFTWARE IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN GAMPAHA DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

With the advancement of communication technology, libraries are adapting to innovative technologies apart from the traditional ones, especially in the case of public libraries in Gampaha District to provide an effective service. In this process, Open-Source Software (OSS) is a great solution for public libraries to function using limited resources. Koha is a free and open-source software to manage library routine operations and it has many integrated features. Hence, Koha OSS can be used to manage library functions such as acquisition, OPAC and serial control.

The purpose of this study is to investigate the current situation of the public libraries which adopted the Koha OSS for library automation and further, to find factors affected to use of Koha OSS for library automation, perceived usefulness and to elaborate the challenges faced by public libraries in Gampaha District. The survey method was used conduct the study approaching deductive method. Both quantitative and qualitative data collected using the questionnaire which was distributed via email and WhatsApp. Population of the study is 30 and all were selected purposively as sample. 27 Librarians responded to the questionnaire. The findings highlighted the perceived usefulness and adoption of Koha OSS by librarians in public libraries in Gampaha District. The study identified the factors such as Unicode compatibility, high user friendliness, lower funding are the motivated factors to adopt open-source in their libraries. The insufficient funds, no proper training, network problems were the main challenges faced by the librarians. However, further studies are required to verify the findings of this study and to explore different aspects such as level of OSS adoption, management, sustainability, future trends, and measures for supporting public libraries.

Keywords: Library automation, Open-source software, Koha, Public libraries, Automation challenges, Koha adoption, Awareness, Perceived Usefulness, Sri Lanka

SATISFACTION LEVEL OF THE STAFF ON LIBRARY RESOURCES AND SERVICES: THE COAST CONSERVATION AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT OF SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

The assessment of user satisfaction is a significant determinant of library service quality, service delivery, and library performance. Therefore, this study was carried out to evaluate the satisfaction of officers of the Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management Department of Sri Lanka with its library resources and services. The study incorporates surveys for data collection. Primary data were collected by distributing a structured questionnaire among 112 Coast Conservation staff members. 105 out of 112 distributed questionnaires were returned, yielding a 93.75% response rate. Primary data were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency, median, etc., and results are presented in charts and tables. The findings show that the majority (91%) of officers visit the library at least 2-3 times a month. The main purposes of visiting the library were to borrow books and other materials and collect information for Environmental Impact Assessment reports. Coast Conservation officers were strongly satisfied with some of the library resources such as library newspapers and annual reports, as well as services such as lending, reference, newspaper clipping, security, and opening hours. The officers were satisfied with resources such as books, statistics reports, and other aspects including the cleanliness of the library, and the efficiency and guidance of the library staff. However, the officers expressed dissatisfaction with library e-books, journals, audiovisual resources, reading facilities, internet, furniture, seating, humidity, lighting, and ventilation. The study identifies lack of computers, chairs and tables, journal articles, library space and reading environment as the main problems faced by the officers when using the library. The study also identifies the provision of library services using new technology as a key requirement. Based on the findings, the study suggests increasing the collection of books and journals, improving the internet facilities, enhancing photocopying services, increasing library space, and adopting more technology can achieve higher user satisfaction.

Keywords: Coast Conservation & Coastal Resources Management Department, Library Resources, Library Services, Special Libraries, User Satisfaction

SERVICE MARKETING CONCEPTS SUITABLE FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN SRI LANKA: A REVIEW OF LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the review of literature on concepts of service marketing in public libraries in Sri Lanka. This paper incorporates a thorough literature review on 43 selected articles from various e-databases such as Emerald Full Text, Science Direct as well as Google Scholar between the years 2010-2021. This review focuses on identifying the concepts used by public libraries worldwide, available in research articles to ascertain the service marketing strategies that are more adoptable for service marketing in public libraries in Sri Lanka. The present study indicates that marketing is significant in library and information services for effective and efficient information management, improvement of library image and satisfying the customer needs. Librarians must focus more on 7 P's of marketing and promotion of their library products and services due to the information explosion, technology revolution, and escalating library costs. Web 2.0 and social media have an impact on library services and libraries are using these tools as a means of marketing services. The study suggests that all the concerned authorities of the library and information services which engage effectively with society should come forward to support information practitioners to develop a positive image of the public library marketing in the digital era.

Keywords: Library marketing concepts, Public Libraries, Services Marketing, Social media, Web 2.0, Web 3.0, 7Ps

SOCIETY, CULTURE, POLITICS, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, ECONOMICS AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES

A CANONICAL STUDY ON BUDDHIST EDUCATIONAL METHODS

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ABSTRACT

Are there any educational methods in the Buddhist canon that deserve to be investigated? Buddhism is an educational religion or philosophy. According to the Blessed advice, *"Caratha bhikkhave.."* – monks, travel welfare and happiness of the people, educate gods and humans to self-understanding and satisfaction. It is a kind of duty for monks. What we have to do in Buddhism. Buddha emphasized that monks should learn, practice, and teach others. According to that vision, the Buddhist educational system motivates the individual to achieve two objectives. That is the attainment of mundane and supermundane pleasures. Economic, political, and social matters necessary for mundane happiness have been taught, and ethics, spiritual matters, and negative emotions have been analytically taught for supermundane happiness. It can be pointed out that even the composition of the *Tripiṭaka*, which includes Buddhist thought, has the form of a modern educational institution's curriculum. The research problem is whether to apply Buddhist educational methods in the modern world. We do not need to compare Buddhism with science or modern subjects. But we can learn a lot of subject related knowledge from Buddhism. The main objective of this research paper is to point out the educational methods used by the Buddha. Therefore, I used qualitative data study research methodology under the library reference. The Buddhist *Pali* Canon is used as a primary source on the internet, and many other related articles are used here as secondary sources. When we conclude, Buddhism has given priority to the philosophy of Education. According to the Buddhist Educational philosophy, there are lots of educational methods used by the Buddha. Among them, student-centered teaching methods, teacher-centered teaching methods, lecture methods, discussion methods, step methods, practical methods, problem-solving methods, and remedial teaching methods have been strongly used.

Keywords: Buddhist, Canon, Educational, Teaching, Methods

AN ONLINE SCHOOL EDUCATION CRISIS AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN RURAL AREAS IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

The primary objective of this study was to investigate the challenges that impede the right to education in rural areas of Sri Lanka through online education and develop strategies to enhance this right. Although online education has proven to be beneficial for children, those living in rural areas face difficulties in accessing this mode of education. The technology infrastructure and facilities in Sri Lanka are predominantly located in city areas, leaving rural families with limited access to technology. Another challenge arises for families who rely on daily earnings and find it difficult to afford the necessary devices for online education. This study employed a doctrinal legal analysis, utilizing primary and secondary sources to examine the current legal framework for online education in Sri Lanka. The aim was to provide a comprehensive understanding of the existing legal system and identify gaps or areas in need of improvement. The end goal of the study was to provide recommendations for ensuring the protection and effective implementation of the right to education through online education in Sri Lanka. Using the mixed-method design, data for this study is collected through surveys and interviews with students, providing valuable insights into their experiences. Findings indicate that rural students face difficulties in balancing their academic activities compared to their counterparts in urban areas. The results of the study indicated that although there are ample legal provisions in the Sri Lankan legal system regarding education, there are no specific laws for online school education. The Sri Lankan Constitution in Article 27(2) (h), the Education Ordinance, and ICTA Act address education issues but do not specifically mention online education. Sri Lanka is a signatory to several international treaties that protect the right to education, including online education, as covered by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention against Discrimination in Education, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This study highlights the pressing need for developing a legal system for online learning to ensure that the right to education is protected.

Keywords: Online Education, Sri Lankans Law, Right to Education, Rural Area, Covid-19

A STUDY OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT: COLOMBO DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Sexual harassment of women in public transport is a huge social problem. Buses and trains can be identified as the most used public transport services. Sexual harassment on public transport is often overlooked by women, but such incidents can affect many aspects of their lives. Therefore, the research problem is to identify whether there are effects on women who are sexually harassed in public transport and what is the nature of those effects. This research aims to identify the types of sexual harassment of women in public transport, to identify women's responses to them, the factors that encourage sexual harassment in transport and to suggest recommendations to prevent sexual harassment in public transport. In the Colombo district selected as the study area, it is implied that women who use public transport services daily for education, employment, and other purposes are sexually harassed in public transport. Accordingly, among the 150 women who responded to the research, 128 women were selected by simple random sampling and the primary data obtained through a questionnaire and interviews were subjected to qualitative and quantitative analysis using SPSS version 21. Research results and findings indicate that 98% of women who are sexually harassed in public transport are affected. These impacts can be recognized as physical, mental, sexual, and social in the long term and short term. In public transport, women are mostly sexually harassed by men in the middle age group (age 40-55). Women who are sexually harassed in public transport also endure it thinking that it is something they inherit in public transport. These attitudes of women must change to prevent sexual harassment in public transport, instead of changing the lifestyle of women, what should be done is to create an environment that respects women and allows women to live freely.

Keywords: Sexual harassment, Impacts of sexual harassment, public transport, Victimization, Women

A STUDY ON THE IMPORTANCE OF USING GREEN TECHNOLOGY IN CITY PLANNING IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

City planning plays a crucial role in shaping the development of urban areas and determining the quality of life for its citizens. With rapid urbanization, it is becoming increasingly important to consider the environmental impact of city planning and development decisions. This study aims to examine the importance of using green technology in city planning in Sri Lanka and to provide insights for policymakers, urban planners, and decision-makers to prioritize its implementation in future city planning projects. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with urban planners, policymakers, and citizens to gather their perspectives on the use of green technology in city planning and the challenges they face. Participants were selected through purposive sampling. Urban planners, policymakers, and citizens involved in city planning activities in Sri Lanka were targeted for inclusion in the study. The collected data was analyzed using descriptive statistics to identify patterns and relationships between the perspectives and experiences of different stakeholders. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with the selected participants. The interview questions were designed to explore their perspectives, experiences, and challenges related to the use of green technology in city planning. The findings from the data analysis are used to provide recommendations for policymakers, urban planners, and decision-makers in Sri Lanka. This includes the development of policies and regulations to promote the use of green technology, as well as increased awareness and education for urban planners and citizens on the benefits and implementation of green technology in city planning. The results suggest that the use of green technology in city planning can lead to improved environmental sustainability, enhanced quality of life, and increased economic development. This study provides valuable insights for decision-makers in Sri Lanka to prioritize the integration of green technology in future city planning initiatives. This study highlights the potential benefits of incorporating environmentally friendly technology in urban development.

Keywords: green technology, Environmental sustainability, Urban development, City planning, economic development

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF TEENAGERS' BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS

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ABSTRACT

Teenagers' behavioral problems affect schoolchildren's learning processes, and they are caused by unfavourable emotions. A large number of schoolchildren are involved in gang violence, suicide, early child marriage, rape, increase the number of children abused, damage the school property and living environment, and become addicted to drugs because of the unrest. The research is designed based on a descriptive cross-sectional design, and stratified random sampling methods are used to do the research. The main objective of the research is to identify the social, personal, and psychological factors that influence teenagers' behaviour problems in the study area. The research was conducted using a quantitative method. The researcher finds out some factors that influence teenagers' behavioural problems in this research area. There are psychological, economic, social, and personal factors that influence the students' behaviour. Children separated from their parents, watching an action movie, ego-centric issues, loss of love, and family background. This research recommends some policies to reduce anti-social activities, such as awareness programmes by Child protection organizations, compulsory exposure to law education, providing social security to teenagers, reducing poverty, blocking inappropriate social websites at school and at home, and providing knowledge about human rights and child rights to children. Maintaining good relationships between child protection authorities to preserve the children, teaching yoga, physical fitness, meditation, and spending time with leisure activities.

Keywords: Teenagers, Unrest, Behavior, Antisocial, Protection

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF MEDIA EDUCATION IN SECONDARY EDUCATION IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

"Media Education" was introduced to the secondary level schools in Sri Lanka in 2006 by the National Institute of Education as an 'optional subject' that could be followed by the students if there is the availability of teaching staff in schools. The subject was initially commenced for grade 10 and 11 students, aiming for the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level). The purpose of the study is to examine the challenges and opportunities of Media Education for the secondary education students in Sri Lanka using documentary research method. This research was conducted based on data and information obtained through secondary sources as published material. Main sources of secondary data are books, journals, articles, reports, and existing research studies. The results show that the challenges and opportunities are mainly connected with the subject curriculum, teaching, methodology, assessment process, technology, resources and classroom management, which are the main elements of focus in the documentary research method. Due to these factors, the main challenges that occurred in media education for the G.C.E (O/L) are highly concentrated on theoretical syllabus content, a lack of practical content, modern technology requirements and non-availability of subject qualified school teachers. There are many opportunities for the G.C.E (O/L) students in their school culture which are media literacy workshops, media days, designing wallpapers, all island school media competitions and morning school radio transmission services. Due to these findings, there are challenges and opportunities of Media Education in the secondary education in Sri Lanka. Therefore, the government authorities should develop school media curriculum including theoretical and practical skills, develop modern technology media labs and provide subject qualified teachers for the media education in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Challenges and opportunities, Media education, Secondary Education Sri Lanka

CHALLENGES FACED BY THE FEMALE TEA PLUCKERS IN SRI LANKA: A CASE STUDY IN THE GALLE DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

In Sri Lanka, the tea industry is a labor-intensive one. The marginalized women are referred to as less skilled workers. Women are said to have developed the talent of plucking, thanks to their dexterous fingertips. This study's key objective was to investigate the difficulties encountered by female tea pluckers in Sri Lanka's Galle district. Previous studies have shown that the manual labor-intensive procedure of plucking tea leaves has primarily been performed by female workers. Data were gathered through focused individual discussions, group discussions, questionnaires, interviews, case studies, and observations. The experiences of 50 randomly selected female tea pluckers from the Galle district were openly discussed during interviews. There were 15 specific questions and follow-up questions in the interview questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed to obtain information from the tea pluckers about their lifestyle, the obstacles they faced as women in the field, and their long-term objectives. Data were analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively. The findings of this study show that the female tea pluckers are limited to the tea estates and are content with their way of living. The primary conclusions of this study showed that lack of social connection and education caused them to become female tea pluckers. These obstacles include a lack of family decision-making authority, the need for additional education, the inability to advance in a career, the lack of a compassionate workplace, and a higher risk of non-infectious diseases. The female tea pluckers are content with who they are as tea pluckers and never see life as a challenge. Thus, this study revealed the way of life of a female tea plucker who sacrifices her own life to improve Sri Lanka's tea plantation culture.

Keywords: Female tea pluckers, Tea plantation culture, Challenges, Lifestyle, Gender

CONSUMER FOOD SUSTAINABILITY BEFORE AND THROUGHOUT THE ECONOMIC CRISIS IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

This study examines consumer food sustainability changes and issues by analyzing newspaper articles. The main question addressed is how consumer food sustainability issues, such as food waste and sustainable consumer consumption patterns, are brought to the general public's attention in Sri Lanka. This study offers the first investigation into the relationships among consumer food sustainability-related frames in the media, drawing on the theory of media agenda-setting in Sri Lanka. The study focuses on the period before and throughout the economic crisis in Sri Lanka, specifically analyzing the six months of 2018 (January to May) and the six months of 2022 (January to May). It evaluates how the media framed the food sustainability issue as it emerged during this time. The evaluation involved analyzing 1,186 newspaper articles using a new approach to quantitative content analysis based on binary coding, CATPC analysis, and path analysis. The study identified nine frames and six implications related to consumer food sustainability. The findings revealed several significant relationships among frame content, implication, and similarity, with the moderating effect of article appearance. Consequently, the study suggests that, in the light of the economic crisis, Sri Lankans should prioritize areas such as food security and price regulation to ensure a secure future. The research findings contribute to understanding how to address food sustainability issues and inform improvements, implementations, and additions to food policies.

Keywords: Consumer Food Sustainability, Economic Crisis, Media Agenda Setting Theory, Quantitative Content Analysis

CRISIS MANAGEMENT PRACTICES OF BOUTIQUE HOTELS AND VILLAS IN THE POST COVID AND ECONOMIC CRISIS ERA: A CASE STUDY IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on firms throughout the world, notably on the Sri Lankan tourist industry, which was growing but is now suffering the most severe economic crisis of our time. As a result, tourism has been severely affected. The purpose of this study was to investigate the tactics and strategies employed by boutique hotels and villa owners registered with the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) who have been affected by a series of crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the Sri Lankan economic crisis. A qualitative study approach was utilized, involving semi-structured interviews with impacted boutique hotels and villa owners. Thematic analysis was employed to analyze the collected data and identify key themes associated with their survival strategies. According to the findings, boutique hoteliers implemented a variety of strategies to navigate the crisis, including: (1) prioritizing local commodities over imported goods; (2) shifting their target audience from foreign tourists to local visitors; (3) enhancing brand quality while adhering to COVID-19 regulations and maintaining property cleanliness; (4) ensuring business continuity amidst crises; (5) promoting the use of alternative transportation options; and (6) adopting new marketing techniques. Consequently, this study suggests that boutique hoteliers have successfully recovered by demonstrating their adaptive capabilities within a complex and ever-changing system. The insights gained from this research can assist stakeholders in the tourism industry in conducting more precise planning activities and developing effective practices for managing business operations during crises.

Keywords: Economic downturn, COVID–19, Boutique hotels and villas, Tourism industry, Sri Lanka

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DAILY WAGE WORKERS IN RURAL AREAS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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ABSTRACT

COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge to the entire world. By December 2022, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported in Sri Lanka was 671,884, including 16,817 deaths. Social distancing was recommended as one of the major guidelines to be followed by citizens to control the spread of the virus. The main objective of this research was to investigate the impact of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic on daily wage labourers in rural areas due to social distancing. This is a mixed type of research that includes both quantitative and qualitative research. Secondary sources were used for data collection. The data collected during the years 2020 - 2022 will be used to study the impact of the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic on the economy of daily wage workers in Nuwaraeliya District. The majority of the people in this district are engaged in hired work, domestic service, picking tea leaves, agriculture, and factory-related jobs. The reason for choosing this district is that most of the poor people live in this district and it is easy to understand their daily lives. Most rural people have gained economic benefits from horticulture. Among economic disadvantages, job loss was found to be the most influential factor on lifestyles. Creating a system for transportation and distribution of food items and vegetables, creating a formal and organized network system between economic centres and local sector traders, issuing a control price for commodities, developing internet services in public and private institutions, maintaining a population register online for rural employment and the nature of employment, and implementing awareness programs with a primary focus on social, educational, economic, and psychological factors will be useful in reducing the negative effects of social distancing.

Keywords: COVID-19, Sri Lanka, Rural area, Pandemic, Daily wages

EFFECT OF JOB STRESS ON UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AMONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
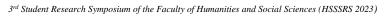
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ABSTRACT

Job stress is the harmful physical and emotional responses that occur when the requirements of the job do not match the capabilities, resources, or needs of the worker. Compared to other universities, the Open University has more students who are engaged in various professional careers. In the context of Open and Distant Learning (ODL), Open University students face a problem of having to manage their work stress while studying. The purpose of this research is to sociologically study the effect of job stress on the university academic performance among undergraduate students of the Open University of Sri Lanka. This study further aims to present the causes of job stress as well as measures to be taken to control and prevent it. This study is a quantitative research and has used a questionnaire to collect data. In identifying the sample for the research, the Department of Social Studies was selected among the departments of the Open University of Sri Lanka. This study was conducted through a judgmental sample of 60 employed undergraduates from the total student population in the B.A. in Social Sciences degree program. Participants who reported experiencing higher levels of job stress had lower grades and poorer academic achievement compared to those who reported lower levels of job stress. Most of the participants reported experiencing moderate to high levels of job stress, which was found to be negatively impacted by factors such as workload, job demands, and the struggle to maintain a work-life balance. Suggestions for the control and prevention of job stress were presented through this study. In conclusion, this study emphasizes the negative impact of job stress on academic performance.

Keywords: Job Stress, Academic Performance, Undergraduate Students, judgmental sample

E-LEARNING IN TERTIARY EDUCATION IN SRI LANKA: A STUDY OF UNDERGRADUATES FROM STATE UNIVERSITIES IN THE COLOMBO DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The Covid-19 pandemic disrupted traditional education and compelled many aspects of education to be transferred into the online mode. Even though this system was highly useful, it was replaced with the traditional system as soon as the threat of Covid-19 disappeared with the rising challenges. The study's main objective was to investigate the opportunities and challenges faced by undergraduates in the state universities within the Colombo District in the context of e-learning and the attitudes towards using e-learning. Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) was used as the main theory of the study. A qualitative approach was applied by using the interview method and focus group discussions (FGD). Samples were selected from all state universities in the Colombo district. The data were collected from 48 Arts Faculty students, taking six undergraduates from each university using purposive sampling. Most of the respondents were below the age of 25 (79%) and others were between the ages 25-35 (21%). Among the participants, 65% were females and 35% were males. The majority of the participants, 67% followed their study program in Sinhala medium and 33% in English. Half the participants had part-time jobs, and the others depended on their parents. The study identified three categories of challenges— behavioural, technical, and social—that undergraduates face and need to overcome to improve online education. According to the findings, it was identified that more than 90% of participants are comfortable with ease of use. All participants were well familiar with online software applications such as Facebook, Gmail, etc. It was revealed that technical challenges such as network issues and lack of devices can be sorted out with the support of government authorities. Though there were positive attitudes towards the online education system, no one had a preference to adhere solely to e-learning without participating in traditional classes. Social challenges need to be handled carefully by giving students the freedom to enable/disable online features such as video camera, and microphone, as required.

It was revealed that most study programs can be planned with a hybrid mode where traditional classrooms are for selected days while the rest are allocated for online classes. Using this kind of study program, two batches can be considered simultaneously as one can attend traditional classes while the other is attending online study programs. This could reduce transport issues and expenses and optimizes resource utilization.

Keywords: e-learning, tertiary education, Undergraduates, State Universities, Sri Lanka

EXPLORING PERCEIVED STRESS AND ITS ANTECEDENTS AMONG THE YOUNG POPULATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SRI LANKA'S ECONOMIC COLLAPSE

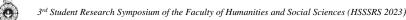**M.B.M.K. Karunaratne [1*] , M.R.V.E. Mathota [2**] , J.T.S.P. Kumara [3***] ,**

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ABSTRACT

Generally speaking, perceived stress could exist among people due to various factors that include social, economic, academic, environmental, familial, and political reasons. When considering the economic crisis of a country as a triggering factor, people of all phases may be affected which could result in adverse effects such as educational breakdowns, increased family pressures etc. However, with the recent collapse of the Sri Lankan economy, citizens are struggling to restore their personal lives which they maintained before the crisis. It is no secret that the people of the country are exposed to considerable levels of perceived stress. When focusing on the youth in Sri Lanka, most of them are wasting their valuable time stressing and wandering on the roads to fulfill their basic needs. Cases were reported where certain young adults had committed suicide due to perceived stress on this condition. Hence, this study seeks to explore perceived stress and its antecedents among the young population with special reference to Sri Lanka's recent economic collapse. Crowdsourcing and simple random sampling methods were used to select the study sample, which included 601 participants between 15 to 35 years of age, from which data was collected through questionnaires using PSS-14 which is a globally popular measurement.

The collected data was analyzed using descriptive statistics using MS Excel for different demographic factors, which elucidated that the Western province (40%) consistently has the highest stress prevalence. Both genders generally experience moderate stress but with some differences which show 48.29% of females and 51.71% of males experiencing moderate stress. Where the factor of marital status is concerned, unmarried individuals represent a higher level of stress while those with higher educational qualifications indicate the highest level of stress based on the educational level which is 58.52% and, 82.53% respectively. During the crisis, a multitude of employment groups, encompassing private sector workers and students, experienced elevated stress levels. Notably, individuals classified as lower-income young adults earning between Rs.0 to Rs. 50,000, accounting for 89.96%, and state university students at 60.80%, exhibited a heightened susceptibility to stress. Hence, the authors believe that the insights generated from this study would be useful for community organizations, policymakers, and the Sri Lankan government in future decision-making.

Keywords: Economic crisis, Perceived stress, Sri Lanka, Young adults

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN POLITICAL GOVERNANCE IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

This research paper explores the reasons for the lack of women in political governance in Sri Lanka after the introduction of the quota for Local Government (Municipal Councils, Urban Councils, and Divisional Councils) and examines ways to empower women's higher engagement in political governance in Sri Lanka. The basic objectives of this research paper are to explore the reasons for the lack of women in political governance even after the introduction of the quota for Local Government in Sri Lanka and examine ways to empower women's representation in political governance in Sri Lanka. Feminism has been adopted to examine gender equality in political governance from the perspective of this theory. Women's participation in politics is a fundamental prerequisite for gender equality and genuine democracy which facilitates women's direct involvement in public decision-making and ensures better accountability for women. As the United Nations General Assembly resolution (2011) on women's political participation notes, "Women in every part of the world continue to be largely marginalized from the political sphere, often as a result of discriminatory laws, practices, attitudes, and gender stereotypes, low levels of education, lack of access to health care and the disproportionate effect of poverty on women". The research methodology is based on the qualitative method and follows descriptive writing using documented data which can further be classified as secondary sources along with books, journal articles, newspaper articles, and web blogs. The scope of the study is restricted to women's representation in political governance in the Local Government in Sri Lanka; women's leadership role in political parties and their political representation as voters will not be discussed. The paper concludes by evaluating reasons for the lack of women's representation in political governance even after the introduction of the quota system in Local Government in Sri Lanka and proposing ways to empower women's higher engagement in political governance in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: gender equality, political governance, women's representation

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) ANALYSIS OF SUITABLE ROOFS FOR GENERATING THE SOLAR ENERGY POWER IN THE COLOMBO DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT DIVISION

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ABSTRACT

It is feasible to solve Sri Lanka's energy problem by using solar radiation as the primary renewable energy source and a long-term lucrative resource to generate energy. This paper primarily aimed to identify the most suitable roofs in public places for the installation of solar PV systems using Geographic Information System-based models, to measure the energy capacity to produce electricity according to the areas of roofs, and to determine the possibility of resolving the energy crisis. Two software packages (ArcGIS and QGIS) were utilized to digitize the 218 roofs in public spaces in the Colombo Divisional Secretariat Division. In addition, a suitability analysis using a number of weighted parameters, including temperature and roof area, has been used to classify the roofs according to how well suited they are for installing solar PV systems. As a result of the suitability analysis map, sixty-two of the most suitable roofs with an area of 264,911 square feet, which have better chances of producing energy, were placed around the public roofs. Among them, roofs in Colombo 3, 5, and 7 are particularly significant in the context of power production. The roofs mentioned above also have the capacity to produce more than 10,000 kW of electricity, according to the assumption that a single solar PV system can generate a maximum of 545 W. Despite the fact that the Colombo district required 60.8% of the total electricity consumed in Sri Lanka in 2019, installing solar PV systems on the most appropriate roofs will be able to meet 37.7% of that demand. In conclusion, it is a contribution because the planning for renewable energy indicated the above results in fulfillment the electricity demand to somewhat and supporting further addressing the energy crisis.

Keywords: Geographic Information System, Energy Crisis, Solar PV Systems, Solar Radiation, Suitable Locations, Roofs

IMPACT OF DISPLACEMENT ON MARITAL DESIRE OF NORTHERN TAMIL WOMEN: AN ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

This study examines how the forced local migration after the civil war between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan government, which began in 1983 and lasted until May 2009, has affected Tamil women's desire for marriage. The research was conducted in the war-torn Northern Province of Jaffna and Kilinochchi. This study was conducted among 20 Tamil Hindu women using qualitative research techniques such as interviews, observations, and personal narratives. The main objective of this study is to examine women's desire to marry considering the impact of war. The analysis of this study has proved that dowry is the main issue in marriage ceremonies among Tamil communities. The data for the study was collected from 35 to 30 year old women whose desire for marriage was not fulfilled. They have been labelled as 'Muthir Kanni' (old virgins) by the Tamil community. The study reveals that several issues, such as parental loss due to war and relocation, loss of maternal home, military land acquisition, lack of relative assistance, and un-resettlement have hampered these women's desire to marry. In this study, the impact of displacement is emphasized, which is the most imperative challenge to achieve women's desires in society. When following the ethnographic analysis of the research findings, it indicated that women can only advance if they have equal rights and gender equality.

IMPACTS OF PARENTAL MIGRATION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH – A CASE STUDY BASED ON GOMARAYA FIELD VISIT

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ABSTRACT

It is a well-known fact that most vulnerable citizens are continually struggling with rising inflation, food insecurity and poverty due to the present economic crisis in Sri Lanka. A large number of people are suffering from a lack of jobs and sources of income. Migration for jobs has become one of the very few alternatives available for low-income parents to protect their family members from the impacts of the economic crisis. While it is a potentially viable solution to alleviate the current situation, the adverse consequences that may affect the children and youth who represent the future fabric of Sri Lankan society, must also be considered. Although the consequences of parental migration and children, and youth insecurity have been discussed by Ukwatta (2010), Getnet (2022), Radhika (2022), and Dunusinghe (2020), there is still a need for further study on the subject in the present context. The primary objectives of this study were to conduct a comprehensive examination and analysis of the key factors driving parental migration, both within the local region and internationally, and to identify the principal sources and impacts of insecurity experienced by children (aged under 14) and youth (aged 15–29 years). The specific geographical area selected for this study was the Gomaraya village within the Panvila GS Division of Kandy. In order to gather relevant data, a household survey was conducted covering 10 out of 35 houses in the Gomaraya Housing Scheme. The data collection process involved focused group discussions and questionnaires. The acquired responses were subsequently subjected to a thematic analysis for presentation. The study's findings shed light on several noteworthy observations. It was revealed that children undergoing parental migration encountered various adverse experiences, such as feelings of isolation, sadness, loneliness, a lack of support, and a dearth of motivation in relation to their schooling. Similarly, the youth also faced numerous challenges, including frustration in their daily lives, premature discontinuation of education, a lack of self-confidence, engagement in substance abuse, instances of discrimination and violence, as well as early marriages.

Key Words: economic crisis, migration, parental absence, children & youth, thematic analysis

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF FEMALE HIGHER EDUCATION IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

Many studies emphasize that female higher education in Sri Lanka has many socio-cultural and economic issues. Therefore, the aim of this study is to identify such selected issues and challenges faced by females in Sri Lanka like as poverty, not being capable enough to enter state universities, early marriages, sexual harassment and abuses, lack of responsiveness to females in labour market requirements.

The enrolment of females in higher education is higher compared to that of males. Dropout role of higher education of females can be noticed as they are subjected to different challenges. Data has been collected referring to the secondary sources related to the field from the Department of Census and Statistics, articles and educational journals. My work is focused on the minor gaps identified in previous studies and is intended to explore few such challenges and issues faced by females in obtaining higher education in Sri Lanka. Findings of the study show how poverty keeps females at home for household work or early marriages as parents don't have enough money to spend on higher educational expenses such as stationeries, food and boarding fees though we have free education in Sri Lanka. Cultural practices like early marriages cease the higher education of females. With increased sexual harassments and abuses, parents fear to send their daughters away from hometown for higher education. Society expects women and men to behave in a stereotypical manner. As a result, females are denied of their rights and opportunities in the labour market. Female higher education is very important for improvement of society's economic development. School based awareness programs to raise awareness on importance of higher education of females and promote gender equality through education are vital to promote the concern of higher education of females. Introducing Government funded scholarships and higher education centres for those who cannot enter state universities and for those who have fairly low income rates could further increase the number of enrolment of females in higher education.

Keywords: Issues, challenges, female, higher education

KEY CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED BY INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE AND SOLUTIONS TO THE CHALLENGES: CASE STUDY, INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT DUE TO FLOOD IN MAGAMA, 2019

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ABSTRACT

Because local people must deal with displaced issues and come up with answers on their own, internal displacement presents some of the most significant obstacles. In this context, obstacles include both mental and physical challenges. More than 500 individuals were internally displaced as a result of the 2019 flood in Magama. This study mainly aimed to identify the main challenges that the internally displaced persons faced and to find solutions to those challenges. These reflective data were gathered via interviews and field observations in the study area. The Divisional Secretariat Office in Tissamaharama has provided secondary statistics, such as the number of displaced households, the relief procedures, and their arrangements. According to the results of this study, majority of the difficulties, including those relating to health and sanitization, lack of safety, financial difficulties, and psychological instability, would be generated by the environment around the relief camp. When examining this case study, it becomes clear that both the displaced people and various government institutions, particularly the Divisional Secretariat Office in Tissamaharama, took several steps to terminate the challenges, such as establishing a counseling program, donating financial assistance from non-governmental associations, ensuring security around the relief camp, and enhancing health care accessibility. The most crucial aspect was that people who had been forced to flee tried to rescue their material possessions without thinking about their safety, and because of this, the issues they faced only got worse. People who have been displaced were unaware of how they behaved in the relief camp. In conclusion, emerging challenges vary depending on the level of public awareness and the type of internal displacement.

Keywords: Internal displacement, Physical Challenges, Mental Challenges, Flood, Termination

NEW DIRECTIONS IN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION THROUGH GENERAL EDUCATION TEACHERS' PERCEPTION

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ABSTRACT

Practicing inclusive education in general education classrooms is an increasing concern in Sri Lankan schools. The purpose of this research is to investigate how general education teachers' perceptions affect their practice of inclusive education in normal classrooms. Using a mixed-methods approach, this study has analyzed both quantitative and qualitative data; a questionnaire has been used to obtain quantitative data, and interview schedules have been used to obtain qualitative data. SPSS analysis has been used to analyze quantitative data, and content analysis has been used to analyze qualitative data. The significant result of this study is that both teachers' perspectives on inclusive education and their willingness to support such initiatives within the education system are impacted by their perceptions of inclusive education. This study definitely answers the question regarding the correlation between how general educational teachers' perceptions affect their practice of inclusive education in normal classrooms.

Keywords: Inclusive Education, Teachers' Perceptions, Children with Special Needs, New directions in education, Sri Lankan schools

ORGANIZATIONAL POLITICS: EFFECTS ON PUBLIC SECTOR JOB ATTITUDES AND ACHIEVEMENT

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ABSTRACT

Organizational politics is associated with power and exerts a great deal of influence in modern organizations. Who has the power? Organizational politics can directly influence whether workplace culture encourages productivity. Existing literature has proven that the perception of organizational politics negatively affects the performance of employees within the organization. The study was conducted during the period of July to December 2019 in association with Sri Lankan public sector organizations covering the Western Province. The sample of the study was composed of 306 employees who belonged to three employee categories: managerial, clerical, and below clerical, and worked in three organization categories: national, provincial, and district level. A Mixed method was used for both the survey and the analysis. The questionnaire method was used for quantitative data analysis; observation, case study, and interview methods were used for qualitative data analysis. Quantitative data analysis was performed using the computer-based SPSS software package (version 20). Qualitative data were analyzed in detail. The findings reveal that organizational politics adversely affect certain determinants of worker behavior in the organization. Organizations on issues such as employee performance, employee job satisfaction, commitment to achieve organizational goals, current parade of employees compared to qualifications, selection process for training, workshops, scholarships, local political leaders interfering with the organization, and ministerial influence related to the Organization's politics. In summary, organizational politics refers to organizational goals and employee perceptions of fairness and justice regardless of the category (organization/job) of employees they belong to, and organizational structure and processes conclude that it affects negatively.

Keywords: Organization Politics, effectiveness, Negative Influence, Employee, Sri Lankan Public Sector

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS' OWNERSHIP AND PUBLIC COMPANIES' PERFORMANCE IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

Institutional investors have become important players and stakeholders in the financial industry today. They have also become a major influence in the equity market. They have a substantial global presence in both established and developing markets. The growing amount of corporate equity they hold demonstrates their growing significance in corporate governance. When making decisions in the past, these investors avoided direct involvement and instead used the exit strategy, selling their shares if they didn't like the decisions made by management (Bathalaal, 1994). They are more emboldened to speak up when they disagree with management since they used their right to vote during company meetings, and as a result, they are actively taking part in corporate decision-making. They do this in an effort to persuade senior executives to consider the long-term interests of shareholders (Coffee, 1991). The purpose of the study is to look at the relationship between firm performance and institutional ownership. The annual reports and financial statements of 100 companies from thirteen industries that were listed on the Colombo Stock Exchange in Sri Lanka between 2017 and 2019 were used to compile the desired goals and the relevant data. The institutional investor's ownership has been investigated as an independent variable, along with company performance (Return on Assets and Return on Equity) and firm size (control variable). This study employed correlation and regression, and the results revealed a significant positive relationship between firm size and performance, whereas ownership by institutional investors has a significant negative association with the company's performance. The study's conclusions suggest that it is wise to support the adoption of corporate governance principles in Sri Lankan public firms in order to motivate institutions to boost their investments and implement efficient monitoring, which might improve company performance.

Key words: institutional investors' ownership, firm performance, Return on Assets (ROA), Return on Equity (ROE)

SOCIAL MEDIA ADOPTION AND ITS IMPACT ON SRI LANKAN SMALL-SCALE WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS' BUSINESS PERFORMANCE

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ABSTRACT

Women entrepreneurship is becoming more popular in today's economy, where the advancement of technology has created an atmosphere that is beneficial to the social and economic progress of small-scale businesses. Using technology infrastructures, women entrepreneurs are enhancing their business activities through social media platforms. The main purpose of this study is to investigate social media adoption and its impact on Sri Lankan small-scale women entrepreneurs' business performance. In doing so, the authors explore the current status of social media adoption among Sri Lankan small-scale women entrepreneurs and identify whether Sri Lankan small-scale women entrepreneurs are using social media platforms.

The study deployed a mixed methodology where a survey and a series of interviews were used for the data collection. The purposive sampling technique was used for data collection. Allowing one month for this data collection, the authors ended up with 384 responses. For the analysis, the authors followed a weighted score model by choosing the most important questions in the questionnaire. According to the authors' judgment, ~~gave~~ the scores for chosen questions were given. To test the proposed hypothesis, the model equation was created using SPSS software. The researchers applied narrative analysis to analyze the gathered data from 15 semi-structured interviews.

The findings revealed that social media adoption among Sri Lankan small-scale women entrepreneurs is significantly associated with technological literacy, compatibility, frequency of use of the device (Technological Factors), government barriers, supplier pressure, competitive intensity, bandwagon effects (Environmental Factors), business period, advertising methods (Organizational Factors). The findings of this study would help women entrepreneurs to effectively use social media platforms in promoting their businesses. Based on the findings of the study, policymakers and practitioners may be given suggestions on how to improve the ability of small-scale women entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka through developing social media.

Keywords: Business Performance, Small-scale Organizations, Social Media Adoption, Women Entrepreneurs

SOCIAL SECURITY OF WOMEN EMPLOYED IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

The informal sector in Sri Lanka employs more than half of the population, consisting of household enterprises and unincorporated businesses. This research focuses on the lack of social security awareness among women in the informal sector. This study aims to investigate the importance of social security for women working in the informal sector in Sri Lanka. Using social protection theory as the theoretical framework for studying the importance of social security for women in the informal sector in Sri Lanka, provides a comprehensive lens to analyze the issues at hand. The study utilizes open-ended questionnaires and interviews to gather data from a sample of 20 women employed in the informal sector from one regional secretariat. Primary and secondary data were analyzed, revealing a significant lack of knowledge, and understanding of social security schemes among the women. With many women lacking a clear future goal and anticipating dependency on them in the future, appropriate policy measures are necessary for their future security. Although government organizations have implemented poverty eradication and social security programs, integration issues have prevented women, particularly, from benefiting. The continuation of this situation could lead to adverse consequences in Sri Lanka. Therefore, urgent collaborative efforts between policymakers, the government, the private sector, and the non-governmental sector are needed to address this problem through the development of a joint program.

Keywords: Employment, Informal Sector, Sri Lanka, Social Security, Women

SRI LANKA - CHINA CULTURAL DIPLOMACY: ACADEMIC POLICIES (2010-2020)

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ABSTRACT

Many scholars believe in cultural diplomacy as a soft power which can extend the national interest of a country with numerous actors. The aim of this study is to assess Sri Lanka – China's cultural relationship during the years 2010 – 2020 in the areas of Academic Policies. Both countries' relations mainly depend on a monetary basis. This study will cater to a better understanding of how Sri Lanka-China diplomacy can develop further using academic policies. Sri Lankan-Chinese relationship has been under a lot of strain recently, and this research aims to find the impact of these issues on cultural diplomacy, which will lead to an understanding of the current state of this relationship and provide information on how this relationship can be further developed and maintained. Though Sri Lanka is known to have many cultural links with various countries in the South Asian region, many of those have faded away with the advent of new socio-political global order. The involvement of China had been prominent in this phenomenon though it is deemed to have faded away. Further, China is a major power in global power politics. It is significant for a state like Sri Lanka to maintain its relationship with China focusing on cultural aspects since Sri Lanka is nowhere in power to China. This report will also analyse existing data on the topic, including data regarding academic relations between both countries excluding political and monetary-based interactions. It will also explain how academic institutions are catering to develop the relationships between the two countries. This research will be mainly qualitative, and the author hopes to review and assess 10 – 15 journal articles related to the topic. Some quantitative data will be also assessed to show why and how Sri Lanka and China have paid more interest in developing monetary and political relationships than cultural aspects.

Keywords: (Cultural Diplomacy, Monetary aspects, Global Power, Soft Power, Academic Policies)

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF USING VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE SUBJECT OF GEOGRAPHY IN THE TEACHING LEARNING PROCESS BY TEACHERS

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ABSTRACT

Geography is not just about teaching students the theories in the curriculum but a basket subject for G.C.E Ordinary Levels that should be taught with both theoretical and practical components, so that students can develop their knowledge, skills, and attitudes. Therefore, completing experiments in the field of geography is an area that needs to be given more attention in education. Every sector is developing rapidly with the advancement of technology. In the education sector too, it has led to the development of more efficient processes, resulting in high accuracy outcomes. The use of virtual technologies is seen as one of the most effective programs for applying technology in Geography. This study looks at the effectiveness of using virtual technologies for geography teachers in Sri Lanka and finds how to develop this concept for the Sri Lankan school education system in the future. The mixed method was used to conduct the study based on both qualitative and quantitative methods. The quantitative data were collected from a sample of 30 teachers of government, semi-government, and private schools located in the Colombo district through an online questionnaire. Semi structured interviews were conducted to collect another set of quantitative data from a sample of 05 geography teachers. A sample of selected books, articles, magazines and web sites were used to collect the documentary data related to the study. A significant number of findings were identified from this study. The advantages of use of vertical technologies were that it was: effective to students and teachers, easier to handle, saving time and cost were some of the findings that emerged. Nonetheless, some disadvantages were also found through the research such as the inability to develop all three domains of the students as much as the physical experiments, difficulty of using these software tools without having basic knowledge and paid licenses, lack of research to further develop the usage of this concept in the Sri Lankan education system, and low concern to develop the technical knowledge and skills of secondary teachers of geography.

Key words: Effectiveness, Geography Secondary Teachers, Virtual technologies

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