

**PROCEEDINGS**

**8<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMANITIES AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**Faculty of Arts  
University of Colombo  
Sri Lanka**

The material in this publication has been submitted by the authors of the research papers as the final approved documents. Neither the Faculty of Arts of the University of Colombo nor the Organizing Committee of the Conference is responsible for any material produced in this publication.

December 2022

ISSN 2420-7365

Cover Design: H.P.S. Geethanjana



**Faculty of Arts**  
**University of Colombo**

**Our Vision**

*To be a centre of excellence in creative thinking, teaching, research, and community outreach in the South Asian region*

**Our Mission**

*To promote collectively scholarship, critical inquiry, competencies, and skills in the Social Sciences and Humanities in keeping with the highest academic and ethical standards in teaching, research, training, and evaluation*

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

### Conference Advisors:

Senior Professor H.D. Karunaratne, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo  
Senior Professor Lasantha Manawadu, Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo

### Co-Chairpersons:

Dr. Darshi Thoradeniya  
Dr. Bihimini Abeywickrama

### Conference Secretaries:

Dr. Pavithra Jayawardena  
Dr. Hasith Kandaudahewa

### Conference Assistant Secretary:

Ms. Nadeesha Jayatunga

### Abstract Review Committee

#### Chairperson

Mr. Umesh Moramudali

#### Committee members

Ms. A.U.G.C.A. Gunathilaka  
Mr. M.A.S.T. Mallawaarachchi  
Ms. J.M.D.H.K. Jayamaha

Ms. Lilani Anuruddhika Dias Weerasinghe  
Ms. R.T. Surenthiraraj  
Ms. Savithri Sellapperumage

### Editorial Committee

#### Chairperson

Nandula Perera

#### Committee members

Ms. Saambaviy Sivaji  
Ms. Upeksha Jayasuriya  
Ms. Sandaru Diwakara  
Ms. Shamilka Abeyratne

Ms. Gayatri Wijekoon  
Ms. Suranmali Prananda  
Ms. Dilinie Gunarathna  
Mr. K.K.G. Randula

### Inauguration Committee

#### Co-Chairpersons

Dr. Kumudu Karunaratne

#### Committee members

Dr. Deepachandi Abeysinghe

Dr. Omala Perera

Dr. Jayanthi Bandara

### Publicity Committee

#### Chairperson

Ms. Fathima Shanaz

#### Committee members

Ms. Chalika Thangaraja

Mr. Krishan Siriwardhana

**Registration Committee****Chairperson**

Ms. Nideka Nanayakkara

**Committee members**

Mr. Tharinda Mallawaarachchi

Ms. S.M.N.S. Senanayaka

**Sessions Committee****Co-Chairpersons**

Ms. A.N. Fernando

Ms. Saambaviy Sivaji

Ms. V.P. Nethra Senadhi

**Committee members**

Ms. Chalika Thangaraja

Ms. Charuni Gunathilaka

Ms. Janani Perera

Mr. H.V. Migara

Ms. W.R.V. Wathsala

Ms. P. Gayesha Bandara

Ms. Upeksha Jayasuriya

Ms. Sandaru Diwakara

Ms. Nandula Perera

**Refreshments Committee****Chairperson**

Ms. K. Rewathy

**Committee members**

Ms. S.M.N.S. Senanayaka

Ms. M.M.M. Begum

Mr. A.M.O.U. Abeysingha

**IT Committee**

Mr. Dakshina Dissanayake

Ms. Prabha Alagiyawadu

Ms. Chobodi Padmaperuma

**Technical Support**

Mr. Dasun Karunanayake

Mr. Asithanjana Batuwanthudawa

Mr. Buddhika Tennakoon

Mr. P.V. Lasith Samantha

## LIST OF REVIEWERS

Ven. Professor U. Ananda	Dr. Sandunika Hasangani
Emeritus Professor J. B. Dissanayake	Dr. Sreemali Herath
Emeritus Professor Asanga Tilakaratne	Dr. Janaki Jayawardena
Emeritus Professor Jayadeva Uyangoda	Dr. Pavithra Jayawardena
Professor Sirimal Abeyratne	Dr. Ranga Kalansooriya
Professor K. Amirtalingum	Dr. Malathy Knight
Professor Sandagomi Coparahewa	Dr. Sasini Kulatunga
Professor Amala de Silva	Dr. Jehan Perera
Professor Nirmal Ranjith Dewasiri	Dr. Kaushalya Perera
Professor Farzana F. Haniffa	Dr. Nihal Perera
Professor Wimal Hewamanage	Dr. Esther Surenthiraraj
Professor Panduka Karunanayake	Dr. Darshi Thoradeniya
Professor Iresha Lakshman	Ms. Deepanjali Abeywardana
Professor Chandani Liyanage	Mr. Achinthya Bandara
Professor Saumya Liyanage	Ms. Kaushalya Herath
Professor Chaminda Padmakumara	Ms. Shivanee Illangakoon
Professor Maneesha Wanasinghe-Pasqual	Ms. Nadie Kammallaweera
Professor Sunethra Perera	Mr. Ravindran Kumarasamy
Professor Anton Piyaathne	Mr. Rathindra Kuruwita
Professor Savithri Ranasinghe	Mr. Umesh Moramudali
Professor Kanchana N. Ruwanpura	Ms. Aisha Nazim
Professor Suranga Silva	Mr. Thilina Panduwawala
Dr. Rohitha Abayasekara	Mr. Tharindu Samaratunga
Dr. Asha L. Abeyasekera	Ms. Anuradha Senanayake
Dr. Ajith Balasooriya	Ms. Samudrika Sylva
Dr. Kumudika Boyagoda	Ms. Megara Tegal
Dr. Nadeesha Chandrasena	Ms. Neluni Tilakaratne
Dr. Priyanga Dunusinghe	Mr. Thiyagaraja Waradas
Dr. Priyantha Fonseka	Ms. Shamara Wettimuny
Dr. M. Ganeshamoorthy	Mr. Naveen Wickremeratne

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

**Senior Professor H.D. Karunaratne**

Vice Chancellor

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka



The Annual International Research Conference of the Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo, IConArts 2022 which is the flagship event in the faculty annual calendar is of very special significance this year.

I am delighted that the Dean, Co-Chairpersons and Coordinators of IConArts 2022 have chosen the timely theme of “From Coping to Improving: The Role of Humanities and Social Sciences in Crisis Contexts”. This year’s conference emphasises multidisciplinary research and highlights impactful research outcomes that benefit policy development and strategic planning. This is particularly important for Humanities and Social Sciences education where knowledge creation and active learning have been identified as hallmarks of the 21<sup>st</sup> century value-added learning.

I am encouraged by the enthusiasm and support from all members of the Faculty of Arts who have helped sustain their high-end research projects, despite encountering multiple challenges from the COVID 19 pandemic and the political and economic crises in the country. Your able adaptation to the digital transformation helped continue with pre-planned activities. Additionally, the administrative and financial managers remained focused to support your research activities despite the lockdowns. Our university ranking has increased with the upscaling of the best regional and international collaborations in research and academics. I look forward to multiple gains in the coming years through your novel initiatives.

May you stay safe and well, enjoy the proceedings, develop fresh ideas and networks, and help take our research outreach to the next level.

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

**Senior Professor Lasantha Manawadu**

Dean

Faculty of Arts

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka



It gives me great pleasure to write this message for the Annual International Research Conference of the Faculty of Arts (IConArts 2022), which is the flagship event in the academic calendar of the Faculty.

This year's conference, held under the theme "From Coping to Improving: The Role of Humanities and Social Sciences in Crisis Contexts", includes presentations that showcase the critical role played by the Humanities and the Social Sciences in defining the future of our country facing multiple, unprecedented challenges. Having been resilient throughout COVID-19 and the economic and social challenges that followed the pandemic, the academic community has devised innovative and ingenious strategies to ensure the continuity of education in a time of crisis. In such a context, this year's conference will become a platform to share and discuss the impacts of these personal and shared strategies of survival. In the wider context, it will produce much needed knowledge to prepare ourselves for future challenges.

This conference is the result of the contribution and commitment of numerous individuals. First of all, I would like to thank the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Senior Professor H.D. Karunaratne for his constant support and guidance to make this event a success. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the organising committee and the sub-committees of IConArts 2022, competently led by the co-chairpersons of the conference. I take this opportunity to thank the keynote speaker for graciously accepting our invitation. Administrative, technical, and support staff of the Faculty of Arts are thanked for their assistance in numerous ways. I also thank all those who submitted abstracts for the conference without which this event would not have been possible.

I would like to extend my best wishes to the organising committee members, presenters, and participants. I wish IConArts 2022 all success.

## MESSAGE FROM CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRPERSONS

### **Dr. Darshi Thoradeniya**

Department of History

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka



### **Dr. Bihimini Abeywickrama**

Department of English Language Teaching

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka



The International Conference of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Colombo (IConArts) is dedicated to the advancement of research in the Humanities and Social Sciences. This flagship event in the Faculty calendar brings together veteran scholars as well as promising young researchers who follow postgraduate programmes in the Faculty.

This year's Conference titled "From Coping to Improving: The Role of Humanities and Social Sciences in Crisis Contexts" focuses on the innovation and resilience demonstrated by the field of Humanities and Social Sciences amidst the myriad problems initiated or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and numerous other crises. The Conference will provide a platform for scholars from different academic disciplines to reflect on individual as well as shared challenges forced upon them and the strategies adopted to mitigate the impact of these challenges.

As Co-Chairpersons, we are delighted by the enthusiasm displayed by the academics as well as postgraduate students of the Faculty to participate in this seminal event. The Conference programme presents many innovative ideas and solid research results to foster interaction among researchers from the field of humanities and social sciences. In addition, the programme



includes a keynote speech delivered by Professor Priyanvada Abeywickrama from San Francisco State University, USA, an illustrious alumna of the Faculty. Thus, we hope that the proceedings will serve as a valuable resource for research.

Putting together IConArts 2022 was a team effort. First of all, we extend our sincere gratitude to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Senior Professor H.D. Karunaratne and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Senior Professor Lasantha Manawadu for their encouragement and guidance. The organising committee members deserve special thanks for their effort in putting the programme together. The session chairs and abstract reviewers are commended for their invaluable contribution. We also would like to thank the non-academic staff members and numerous volunteers for their assistance on many tedious tasks.

We hope that you will find the IConArts 2022 programme interesting, thought-provoking, and enjoyable!

## INTRODUCTION TO THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

### **Professor Priyanvada Abeywickrama**

Professor of English

Department of English Language and Literature

San Francisco State University, USA



Dr. Priyanvada Abeywickrama is Professor of English in the Department of English Language and Literature at San Francisco State University, and coordinates the TESOL MA program. She teaches graduate courses in second language listening and speaking and curriculum and assessment development. Dr. Abeywickrama also coordinates the Composition for Multilingual Students Program that serves both domestic and international multilingual learners. In addition to coordinating, she also teaches writing and oral communication to undergraduate multilingual students. Dr. Abeywickrama is also the Chair of the Graduate Council which serves as an advisory body to the Dean of Graduate Studies at SF State and other university administrators on matters related to graduate studies.

Dr. Abeywickrama's research combines language assessment with issues in second language literacy and oral skills. More recently, her interest has been on classroom-based assessments that focus on assessment *for* learning. A secondary area of research is discourse analysis; specifically, codeswitching. She frequently presents her research at the annual conferences of International TESOL, the American Association for Applied Linguistics, and the Language Testing Research Colloquium (LTRC). Dr. Abeywickrama is co-author with H. D. Brown of *Language Assessment: Principles and Classroom Practices*, 3rd ed. (Pearson, 2018).

## **ABSTRACT OF THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**Professor Priyanvada Abeywickrama**

### **Teaching and Learning during COVID-19: Challenges and Opportunities**

With the spread of COVID-19 worldwide, in early 2020, most universities and many school systems around the United States and across the globe switched learning to a remote delivery format to maintain instructional continuity and ensure the safety of the community in the face of the pandemic. This abrupt transition to online education, however, created unprecedented challenges for educators, who were forced to adjust to remote learning with little to no time to prepare. This sudden remote teaching is, however, different from actual planned online teaching (Hodges et al., 2020). What teaching staff were being asked to do was not typical online teaching but what has been termed ‘online triage’.

Educators across the globe relied on a variety of virtual environments for both presenting content and creating classrooms. These include Learning Management Systems (LMS), such as CANVAS, WebCT Vista, Blackboard and MOODLE; video conferencing technologies like Skype, ZOOM, Microsoft Teams, GoToMeeting and WhatsApp; and for doing collaborative work, Google Docs, Mind map, Padlet among many others. While many of us made the sudden pivot, early studies (Aristovnik et al., 2020; Marek et al., 2021; and Tang et al., 2020) suggest that both faculty and students experienced unique hardships due to the swift transition to virtual learning and online classes.

Probably what became obvious and stood out across the globe was student access to digital devices for learning and millions of families’ lack of (high-speed) internet at home. These gaps in basic technology access are particularly stark along socioeconomic lines even in developed countries. Although many of us use the term online instruction, what we did was a move that represents emergency remote instruction which is different from a planned online class. Educators were forced to rethink content, pedagogy, student interaction, assessments in virtual spaces. In short, faculty’s job demands increased tremendously and they had to invest more physical, mental, and psychological efforts to meet the expanded job demands. Students fared no better. Their engagement was impacted by the quality of the content, the social support for learning online and their own self-efficacy.

We are slowly recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 and now moving back to in person teaching. We have learned a lot from our experience of teaching online and also recognize that

we cannot go back. What this entails is a need to look forward and reconceptualize education. The rethinking should not be about improving education, but should focus on the what, how, where, who, and when of learning. The pandemic has created a unique opportunity for educational changes that were being discussed even before COVID-19 but were never fully realized. It is incumbent upon all educators to use this crisis-driven opportunity to examine every aspect of education from curriculum to pedagogy, from teacher to learner, from learning to assessment, and from location to time.

## References

- Aristovnik, A., Kerzic, D., Tomazevic, N., & Umek, L. (2020). Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on life of higher education students: A global perspective. *Sustainability*, 12(20), 1–34.
- Hodges, C., Moore, S., Lockee, B., Trust, T., & Bond, A. (2020 March 27). The difference between emergency remote teaching and online teaching. *Educause Review*.
- Marek, M. W., Wu, W.-C. V., & Chew, C. S. (2021). Teacher experiences with COVID-19 class conversations. *International Journal of Distance Education Technologies*, 19(1), 40–60.
- Tang, T., Abuhmaid, A. M., Olaimat, M., Oudat, D. M., Aldhaeebi, M., & Bamanger, E. (2020). Efficiency of flipped classroom with online-based teaching under COVID-19. *Interactive Learning Environments*, 1–12.

# **PROGRAMME**

## **INAUGURATION CEREMONY**

9.00 am	Refreshments
9.45 am	National Anthem and Lighting of the Traditional Oil Lamp
9.55 am	Video Presentation
10.15 am	Welcome Address by Dr. Darshi Thoradeniya Co-Chairperson, IConArts 2022
10.20 am	Address by Senior Professor Lasantha Manawadu Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo
10.25 am	Address by Senior Professor H.D. Karunaratne Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo
10.30 am	Introduction of the Keynote Speaker by Dr. Bihimini Abeywickrama Co-Chairperson, IConArts 2022
10.35 am	Keynote Address by Professor Priyanvada Abeywickrama Department of English Language and Literature, San Francisco State University, USA
11.15 am	Vote of Thanks by Dr. Pavithra Jayawardena Secretary, IConArts 2022

### Parallel Technical Sessions

11.30 am – 5.00 pm

\* Programme times are listed in Sri Lankan Standard Time (UTC +5:30)

## Table of Contents

Identifying Common Errors in ESL Learners’ Writing using a Learner Corpus .....	2
Administering socio-economic Instruments in Crisis Situations: Examples from Sri Lankan Muslims’ Practices.....	3
Unrevealed Facts of the Ethnic Cleansing of Northern Muslims in Sri Lanka: A Case Study of the Non-expulsion of Nainativu Muslims in the Jaffna District.....	4
Factors Affecting the Migration Aspirations and Intentions of Youth in a Crisis Context: A Review of Literature .....	5
Sri Lanka’s Economic Recovery: Policy Ideology vs Economic Strategy .....	6
Marginalization of People with different Gender Identities and Gender Expressions in the fight against the Corona Epidemic in Sri Lanka.....	7
Vertical Urban Resettlement and the Relationship between the State and its Citizens: A win-win or win-lose Situation? .....	8
Integrating the Countering of Terrorism and Violent Extremism with the UN’s Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Post-war Sri Lanka.....	9
Enhancing Tax Revenue in Sri Lanka: Finding Solutions from the Experience of Selected Countries .....	10
Issues faced by the “Nachchi” Community due to the Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka: A Case Study conducted in the Colombo District.....	11
Learning Needs Associated with the Online English Language Classroom.....	12
On the Adequacy and Determinants of Foreign Reserves: The Case of Sri Lanka.....	13
The Impact of Economic Distress on Rural Female-Headed Household's Family Savings ....	14
Revisiting Paleo Climate in the Quaternary of Sri Lanka and Extinct Sabaragamuwa Fauna	15
Climate Change Adaptation and Government Initiatives of Sri Lanka .....	16
Performance of Selected State-Owned Enterprises in Sri Lanka: An Economic Analysis ....	17
Outward Built-up Growth of Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte Municipal Council, Sri Lanka.....	18
Homestay Tourism: A Community-based Approach for Empowering Local Communities ..	19
The Impact of Crisis on Gender Digital Gaps in Sri Lanka.....	20
Meditation and Social Harmony: An in-depth Literature Review .....	21
Western Folklore and Colour Semiology (with special reference on the fairytales of <i>The Grimm Brothers</i> ).....	22
The Impact of South Indian Culture on Sri Lankan Muslims during the Colonial Era .....	23
Enhancing the Learning Management System, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo .....	24
DHLab 101: Hosting Open Educational Resources (OER) through a Digital Humanities Laboratory .....	25

The Sri Lankan Civil War 2005-2009: The Christian Perspective .....	26
Business as Usual: An Autoethnographic Study of ESL Teacher Identity during the Sri Lankan Economic Crisis .....	27
The Importance of Tax Education on Revenue Collection in Sri Lanka .....	28
An Analysis of the Vulnerability of the Dengue Epidemic in Badulla Divisional Secretariat Division, Sri Lanka .....	29
බොම්බේ හා වීරසාරා බොලිවුඩ් රොමාන්තික සිනමා නිර්මාණ මගින් නිරූපිත ජනවාර්ගික ගැටුම් තේමා .....	30
අර්බුද අවස්ථාවක දී මහජන මතය හැඩ ගැස්වීමෙහි ලා පුවත්පත් මාධ්‍ය භාවිතය.....	31
Ethnic Conflict, Building Peace, and the External Intervention in Democratic Reforms in Sri Lanka.....	32
“ <i>Ineligible or Intelligible?</i> Pronunciation of ‘training’ and the Novice National Radio (English) Broadcaster: An Initial Study.....	33

# **ABSTRACTS**



# Identifying Common Errors in ESL Learners' Writing using a Learner Corpus

N.T.S. Abeyratne

*Department of English Language Teaching, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

This study attempts to identify the common errors made by the ESL learners in their writing. This information is expected to help the ESL teachers in deciding what language areas should be paid more attention during classroom teaching to improve the current proficiency levels of learners. This study adopted corpus linguistics methodology to conduct a cross sectional exploratory study of learner language using a learner corpus. A corpus was compiled using authentic English texts written by the new entrants to the university who scored between 50-70% at the New Admissions Test in English. The corpus was then error annotated and searched using the concordance tool of AntConc corpus software. The study revealed that the highest proportion of errors made by these learners consisted grammatical errors (68%), followed by errors related to mechanics, lexis, and structure. Among grammatical errors, the most frequent were article related errors (27%) followed by errors related to verbs (24%), prepositions (22%), nouns (12%), and pronouns (4%). 'Missing article' sub category was the main article related error, while 'verb tense errors' were the most frequent sub category in verb related errors. In preposition related errors, both the wrong use of prepositions and the use of redundant prepositions were frequent. The most frequent noun related error subcategory was the use of singular and plural forms of nouns followed by morphological errors. The most frequent pronoun errors were missing and redundant pronouns. It was revealed that some of the categories had recorded a less number of errors due to the underuse of those language features. The study concluded that targeted teaching of language areas where learners have made most errors along with language areas that have been underused in the ESL classroom would be beneficial to the learners to improve their proficiency levels. The findings of this study could inform course material revision, syllabus design, and testing to some extent.

**Keywords:** learner corpus, ESL learners, annotated, corpus software

# **Administering socio-economic Instruments in Crisis Situations: Examples from Sri Lankan Muslims' Practices**

U.L.A. Ameer

*Arabic and Islamic Civilization Unit, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Crises have become the new normal in today's world. Social security systems assist individuals, families, and societies in handling conflicts, natural disasters, displacement, and other incidents in a society where crises are happening. It is handled through a range of institutional structures that are suited to each society's needs and are governed by socioeconomic means. This study takes on the conceptual and practical frameworks of institutional administration of socioeconomic instruments in managing crisis situations. Since this study is designed to explore and describe the status of socioeconomic practices of Muslims in Sri Lanka to manage crises situations, it employs a number of techniques such as case studies, field observations, and structured and unstructured interviews to gather apt data. It also examines expert opinions and refers to records related to Islamic socio-economic practices such as Islamic crowdfunding, zakat, waqf, and interest-free loans done in reviving the economy during crisis situations. The gathered data was analyzed using thematic analysis. The Islamic socio-economic instruments comprise of: (1) obligatory and charitable wealth redistributive drives like; zakat, sadaqa, waqf, slaughtering, aqeeqa, and crowdfunding, (2) corporate-based instruments like; Qard Hasan, kafala, and (3) trade based Islamic microfinance tools like; murabaha, salam, ijarah and etc. Most of the above socioeconomic instruments are administered by mosques and some other volunteer organizations belonging to Muslim societies. This study may provide some guidance for future planning, strategy, and implementation of appropriate relief measures in crisis situations by Islamic social finance organizations.

**Keywords:** slaughtering, social protection, crowdfunding, zakat, crises

# **Unrevealed Facts of the Ethnic Cleansing of Northern Muslims in Sri Lanka: A Case Study of the Non-expulsion of Nainativu Muslims in the Jaffna District**

M.S. Anees

*Department of Political Science and Public Policy, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

According to the sources available, in the latter part of October 1990, roughly 80,000 Muslims belonging to 20,000 families from the entire Northern Province were forcibly expelled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in an attempt bring about an ethnic cleansing. This tragic historical episode was one of the major political blunders done by the LTTE throughout its three-decade long so-called struggle for a separate state of Tamil Eelam. A handful of studies have been conducted by domestic and foreign scholars and researchers on this area of expulsion. Since then, extensive analysis has been carried out on the political, economic, social, and cultural effects of this exodus. It is generally believed that in this attempt of ethnic cleansing, almost all the Muslims who had been living in the five administrative districts of the Northern Province for centuries were completely uprooted by denying their right to live in the places of their origin. However, it is now widely felt that almost all the literature available has failed to address the fate of some Muslim families that were left out from this mass expulsion. Hence, the major objective of this study is to explore the internal and external causes which led those families to remain in their places of origin, despite the stern warning by the LTTE to evacuate. In order to collect the relevant data, statistics of the demographic pattern of Nainativu (1980-2020) were collected from the Velanai Divisional Secretariat. The researcher used a random sampling method for the selection of the sample that included 20 respondents (including Muslims-12 and Tamils-08) above the age of 50. Among them, in-depth in-person interviews were conducted to collect information. To analyse the data, both qualitative and quantitative methods were utilized. According to the study, it was found that (a) the presence of a naval base and their assured protection in Nainativu, (b) lack of direct access for the LTTE to the island of Nainativu, and (c) century-long Tamil-Muslim inter-communal co-existence were the main reasons that contributed to their non-expulsion.

**Keywords:** ethnic cleansing, mass expulsion, political blunder, separate state

# **Factors Affecting the Migration Aspirations and Intentions of Youth in a Crisis**

## **Context: A Review of Literature**

W.R.V. Wathsala Anuradhi

*Department of Demography, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.*

Migration intention, defined as migration considerations and plans, has emerged as a significant predictor of possible future migration. During a crisis, the aspiration to migrate grows in the minds of the people. The factors affecting the decisions of the youth to migrate internationally are important because youth form the majority of international migrants. The factors affecting migration intentions and aspirations have been widely discussed. Therefore, the main objective of this research is to examine how micro (individual), meso (community), and macro (national) level factors affect the migration intentions and aspirations of the youth in a crisis context. The study was conducted using literature on international migration from recent years (2014-2022) from developed and developing countries. Twenty-five research articles, technical papers, and working papers on Google Scholar and the websites of the institutes were used to gather data. Thematic analysis was done to study factors affecting migration aspirations and intentions. Ten out of twenty-five articles have directly discussed the factors affecting youth migration aspirations and intentions. Among them, micro-level factors reveal that unemployment was the main factor affecting the aspirations and intentions of young people to migrate. The main meso-level factor that causes migration is the migration network in foreign countries. Furthermore, literature reviews indicate that macro-level factors such as economic and political instability are the main reasons for youth to migrate internationally. Thus, the literature reviews that the aspirations of the youth to migrate temporarily or permanently also depend on micro, meso, and macro level factors. However, limited studies have been conducted to identify the factors that affect migration intention and aspirations among the youth, and further research is needed to address how the current crisis context in Sri Lanka determines the youth's migration intentions and aspirations.

**Keywords:** aspiration, intention, migration, youth

## **Sri Lanka's Economic Recovery: Policy Ideology vs Economic Strategy**

Indrajith Aponso, A.U.G.C.A Gunathilaka

*Department of Economics, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Financial crises have been a common occurrence in developing countries, and, despite follow-up macroeconomic reforms and stabilisation policies recommended by multilateral financial agencies they reoccur. In particular, the IMF has been a leading proponent of macroeconomic refocusing on budget and monetary policies as the way out of such crises. The underlying principle of the reforms has frequently been that macroeconomic imbalances originated through budgetary excesses; thus, “shrinking government” and leaving market forces to operate, should be the policy. Focus on financial markets has been recommended as a way out of the macroeconomic crisis. However, there have been strong critiques of IMF policies. Sri Lanka faced its worst post-independence crisis in 2022, and a deep austerity policy package is being proposed as a way out of the crisis. Over the last several decades, the Sri Lankan economy's economic performance has been mixed. Over the past, Sri Lanka has resorted to IMF bailout packages 16 times, most recently during the 2015-19 period. Sri Lanka's annual merchandise trade balance during the period 2000-2021 has been a steep decline. The cumulative trade deficit is almost US\$90 billion, and during 2015-19 it stood at a staggering US\$45 billion when the IMF reform package was in place. Thus, this begs the fundamental question of whether the macroeconomic stability and development recovery path thus being proposed would lead to desired development goals. This paper, based on secondary published data, argues that Sri Lanka's prospects of sustainable growth and development process were hindered, on the contrary, by its limited policy commitment to a sustained export growth drive and diversification. It argues that the recent country success stories from the region bear testimony to this paradigm. Historically, Sri Lanka's debt crisis was due to its development policy sans export drive and its foreign exchange dependence on unsustainable sources of finance and debt, and, most recently, international financial markets. The path to recovery has been proposed in the same direction.

**Keywords:** economic crisis, IMF reforms, export growth and diversification, developing country debt, the economic recovery process

# **Marginalization of People with different Gender Identities and Gender Expressions in the fight against the Corona Epidemic in Sri Lanka**

D. M. C. Ayeshmantha

*Department of History, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

The Corona outbreak had an unprecedented impact in the global context. Sri Lanka employed several policies against the escalation of the virus. This research is focused on demonstrating how such measures have further isolated individuals with different gender identities, who have already been marginalized in the typical Sri Lankan society. The study has also shown that the transgender community experiences more discrimination because of the oblivious administrative policies against the Corona outbreak, and the institutional measures that were devised in response to WHO guidelines. The data required for the study were gathered using participant observation, interviews, and questionnaires. The primary data were collected from 20 transgender individuals based in Colombo, and Thimbirigasaya Secretariat Divisions while the secondary data were collected from literary sources, the internet, and case studies on social media. This research relied on quantitative and qualitative data obtained from the transgender community and the NGOs. According to the findings of this study, no gender-sensitive policies have been put into place and authorities are uneducated about the legal rights of the transgender community. Further, there is no sensitivity towards the community and officials discriminate people based on personal prejudices. It was revealed that the officials were not aware of laws that allow the amendment of relevant certificates and documents for the transgender community. The findings of this study highlight that the transgender community has been significantly neglected due to their gender expression and identity, and that there was a fundamental lack of awareness in Sri Lanka's efforts to curtail the Corona pandemic.

**Keywords:** gender, marginalization, travel restrictions, stigma, discrimination

## **Vertical Urban Resettlement and the Relationship between the State and its Citizens: A win-win or win-lose Situation?**

D.M. Chandradas<sup>1</sup>, H.D. Hasitha Jeewanthi<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Department of Political Science and Public Policy, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

<sup>2</sup> *Department of Political Science, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka*

Resettling citizens involves more than urbanization; it also has an impact on socio-economic demands and emotional values. This study aims to answer the research question: "What are the factors that create a win-win or a win-lose situation between the state and the citizens in the resettlement process?". The objectives of the study were to examine the (a) impact of vertical urban resettlement on the citizen's right to life (b) socio-economic and environmental influence of the resettlement process on citizens. An empirical study was conducted with a random sample of 40 households from two government housing projects, Elamuthu Sevana and Mehija Sevana, which were chosen using a purposive sampling method. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 60 residents of the chosen housing projects. The information gathered was descriptively analyzed. The study revealed that citizens lost their socio-economic networks due to difficulties in accessing schools, government offices, and dispensaries. The economic situation of those involved has also declined reportedly due to the lack of space for self-employment and distance from work places. The findings also demonstrate that the level of noise pollution is higher than in earlier settlements due to the congested housing settlements and lack of sound proof walls. 51% of the respondents revealed that they are unhappy with the new environment in which their children are currently growing up. The respondents further disclosed that they have given their own homes to the government and having to pay a monthly rental of LKR. 3000 has become a financial burden. They also revealed that the state-bound power they are currently experiencing is infringing upon their private and public rights. Therefore, the state should adopt more policies that are inclusive of the citizens' needs on vertical resettlements in urban centres to prevent a win-lose situation in vertical resettlements in Sri Lanka.

**Keywords:** vertical urban resettlements, citizen's needs, right to life, win-lose situation

# **Integrating the Countering of Terrorism and Violent Extremism with the UN's Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Post-war Sri Lanka**

S. Chandran

*Department of Political Science and Public Policy, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

The engagement with the United Nations (UN) has been critical in successfully eradicating terrorism and extremism, and redressing their ongoing activities within the state. The UN General Assembly and Security Council both play important roles in the battle against terrorism. They have not only passed several resolutions that call for action against suspected terrorists and extremist, but have also established a Counter-Terrorism Committee to oversee and monitor the implementation of these measures. Following the Easter attacks on April 21, 2019, Sri Lanka has reached a situation requiring immediate action by the government. To meet the unprecedented challenges and to counter violent extremism as well as terrorism in the country, it is critical to properly equip the United Nations with domestic mechanisms. During the decades of brutal war and violence that followed, women have been left behind the most due to the death of children, spouses, fathers, and brothers. For this and many others reasons, women are more committed to finding ways to prevent violence from recurring. As a result, enabling women to take the lead in peace-building initiatives and political transition is critical if the country is to achieve long-term peace. Focusing on Counter Terrorism (CT)/ Counter Violent Extremism (CVE) in National Action Plans (NAPs) for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and related Women, Peace and Security (WPS) resolutions is one way in which UN member states can govern gender-responsive CT/CVE efforts, in line with the principles outlined in the various artefacts of the WPS agenda. The aim of this study is to suggest an effective mechanism for NAP to develop and implement gender-sensitive counterterrorism and anti-extremism initiatives in Sri Lanka. In order to better comprehend the limitations of possibilities created around women's participation in national CT/CVE initiatives, the study investigates how gendered topics are constructed inside a NAP. To obtain a comprehensive understanding of the situation and to assess how gender identities and gender roles are represented in NAP in relation to preventing violent extremism, both primary and secondary data were used. The analysis and findings are based on four topics, around which Sri Lankan gender roles and responsibilities with regard to CT/CVE in the WPS NAP might be established. They are: (a) gendering CT/CVE; (b) perpetrators of terrorism and violent extremism; (c) victims of terrorism and violent extremism; and (d) agents of gendering CT/CVE.

**Keywords:** counterterrorism, counter violent extremism, National Action Plan (NAP), Women, Peace and Security (WPS)



# **Enhancing Tax Revenue in Sri Lanka: Finding Solutions from the Experience of Selected Countries**

I. E Coonghe, K. Amirthalingam

*Department of Economics, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Chronic fiscal deficit and its consequences have increased the importance of state revenue mobilisation and expenditure rationalisation in crisis-hit Sri Lanka. Being a middle-income country, Sri Lanka's tax revenue as a percentage of GDP shows a declining trend where it stood at 7.7% in 2021, which is below the average of low-income countries. This alarms Sri Lanka to take necessary steps in mobilising tax revenue. Accordingly, this research attempts to identify the reasons for the low tax ratio in Sri Lanka and to examine the reasons for the non-expansion of the direct tax base in line with the theories and experience of other countries by using the primary data collected from in-depth interviews with relevant stakeholders and secondary data from the Central Bank reports and various databases for the period from 2000 to 2021. The tax trends are represented graphically and regression analysis is used to determine the causal relationship between the economic sector contributions and the share of direct tax as a percentage of GDP. Countries such as Georgia, Rwanda, and South Korea, which experienced worse economic conditions than Sri Lanka were able to increase the tax ratio through continuous reforms. After carefully evaluating the available secondary information on the reform process of these countries, this research proposes feasible means to enhance the tax revenue in Sri Lanka. The initial findings indicate that Sri Lanka should expand the direct tax base during the process of development by introducing a clear, simple, consistent, digitalized, and corrupt-free tax reform and formalising the shadow economy as in Georgia while ensuring high political commitment, tax education, and high compliance similar to that of Rwanda and South Korea. The lessons learned from these countries will provide insight to the policymakers in Sri Lanka to enhance the tax revenue.

**Keywords:** tax reform, tax revenue, indirect-direct tax composition

# **Issues faced by the “Nachchi” Community due to the Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka: A Case Study conducted in the Colombo District**

H.P.S. Dilshani

*Department of Demography, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Due to the economic crisis in Sri Lanka, all the population groups face various challenges. Among them the Nachchi community, which is a sexual minority, has faced serious challenges. Nachchi was an insider term used by a group of sex workers. This term was conceptualized using transgender and homosexual ideologies of the West— Nachchi celebrate their feminine gendered subjectivity, but also embrace the key facets of their biological ‘maleness,’ and are ardent in their sexual desire for men (Miller & Nichols, 2012). This study investigates the economic problems faced by the Nachchi community during the current economic crisis in Sri Lanka. 20 Nachchi respondents who have been living in the Colombo district for over 30 years were selected as participants. The study was based on a qualitative research design, and the snowball sampling method was used to identify the respondents as belonging to the Nachchi community. This community specifically takes part in procession dances. They have often lived alone because of rejection from parents and the absence of changes of marriage and children. It was found that 80% of the respondents have lost their sources of income because of the absence of processions and the reduction of sex work during the economic crisis. Furthermore, due to the external appearance and the sexual orientation of this community, they are neglected by the responsible institutions when re-entering work. Because of the financial difficulties and the inflation, this community is unable to receive hormone treatment. As a result, their bodies have changed. This study also reveals that the Nachchi community has resorted to stealing money or gold in the face of financial difficulties. The study highlights the importance of providing opportunities for this community to access jobs, introducing self-employment, and implementing programs to educate the public about this community.

**Keywords:** Nachchi community, sexual orientation, crisis

## **Learning Needs Associated with the Online English Language Classroom**

D.Y.S. Diwakara

*Department of English Language Teaching, University of Colombo , Sri Lanka*

With the sudden shift to online classrooms, the teaching, learning, and assessment methods had to be altered within the English Language Teaching (ELT) classroom. This study was carried out as a part of a larger ‘needs analysis’ with the aim of improving the syllabus and the teaching approach in the online classroom. To design the survey of the study, ‘target needs’ and the ‘learning needs’ identified by Hutchinson and Waters (1987) were used. This paper specifically focuses on the online classroom related ‘learning needs’ of the Level 3 undergraduates of the Faculty of Law of the University of Colombo. Learning needs explore the needs, potential and constraints of the route within a learning situation, to understand ‘how people learn to do what they do with language’. Accordingly, 25 undergraduates of the Faculty of Law who are in the Level 3 of the Proficiency Course in English were asked to share their needs related to the online learning process using a survey. According to their responses, 75% preferred the on-site classroom environment and only 25% opted for online learning. Those who preferred on-site classrooms shared that they encountered many technology related problems and disturbances within the online studying environment. Lack of feedback and evaluation, lack of contact with the teacher and other students, and the prevalence of health related concerns like screen fatigue, dry eyes, and headaches were also cited as problems of online learning. Only one respondent has shared a positive feedback on online learning, stating the importance of having the presentation on screen and the ability to access the lesson recordings. This feedback was used to improve the online teaching and learning situation. While external disturbances or health related concerns could not be addressed, a systematic process of peer feedback and teacher feedback were included as a corrective measure within English lessons, which proved to be effective.

**Keywords:** needs analysis, learning needs, online English language classroom

## On the Adequacy and Determinants of Foreign Reserves: The Case of Sri Lanka

Priyanga Dunusinghe

*Department of Economics, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Investigating the adequacy and determinants of foreign reserves in a small open economy such as Sri Lanka is of extreme importance, especially since the decline in foreign reserves has been demonstrated to be a leading cause of economic and financial instability witnessed in recent months. In achieving the above objective, this study employed descriptive and regression analyses to a sample of secondary data extracted from national and international databases for the period of 2006Q1 to 2020Q4. Following the literature, reserve adequacy was analyzed using a/the two-step approach pronounced by the International Monetary Fund, where the risk-weighted metric was adopted in assessing the country-specific vulnerabilities at the first stage while reserve requirement was estimated, against the risk-weighted metric, in the second stage. In accordance with the theory and empirics, this study considered the determinants of reserves holding into five categories, namely economic size, current account vulnerability, capital account vulnerability, exchange rate flexibility, and opportunity cost. The results showed that Sri Lanka failed to maintain an adequate level of reserves in most periods post 2012 and, in particular, maintaining a stable level of reserves became an uphill task since 2015. Autoregressive Distributed Lag Model related long- and short- run estimation revealed a number of interesting results. First, the import propensity has a significantly negative association with the reserve position indicating that the growing demand for imports cannot be accomplished without commensurate foreign exchange earnings. Second, the exchange rate has a significantly positive association, with the foreign reserves suggesting that maintaining an artificially determined exchange rate could lead to the deterioration of foreign exchange reserves. Finally, it is found that trade openness, short-term debt, and broad money influence foreign reserves positively. The results clearly indicate that developing countries, such as Sri Lanka, must carefully manage foreign reserves to avoid economic and financial instabilities, similar to the one Sri Lanka is facing at present, and need to assess vulnerabilities on a regular basis and take precautionary measures appropriately.

**Keywords:** foreign reserve determinants, foreign reserve adequacy, Autoregressive Distributed Lag Model, Sri Lanka

# **The Impact of Economic Distress on Rural Female-Headed Household's Family Savings**

H.T.K.I. Jayarathne

*Department of Political Science and Public Policy, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

This study explores the economic situation of rural female-headed households in Sri Lanka. Due to the economic crisis that Sri Lanka currently faces, amassing household savings has become a difficult task. How rural, urban, and estate families in Sri Lanka cope with this economic crisis and how they manage their household savings differ depending on the nature of the family. The main purpose of this study is to examine the economic situation and the resultant household savings of rural female-headed families. This study used a mixed methods approach. The researcher used a non-random sampling method for the selection of the sample that included 60 respondents from two villages in the Kurunegala district: Makandura and Pannala and conducted in-depth, face-to-face interviews. Rural female-headed families were selected from Sinhala, Tamil, and Muslim community groups and they were analyzed under 4 age groups (25-35 years, 35-45 years, 45-55 years, and 55-65 years). This study found that the impact on the economy of rural households headed by women took a different form depending on the age groups—more women over 45 years of age (46%) had been saving their income before the economic crisis compared to women under 45 years of age (25%). However, since the economic crisis began, this percentage has dropped. Moreover, in providing labour, these women face issues such as low-wage and temporary nature of employment along with many other socio-economic and political problems. As a result, their tendency to contribute to household savings has decreased. This research summarizes that the economic crisis has significantly affected female-headed households, as they have been prevented from amassing household savings and have been placed in a vulnerable position. There seems to be a lack of specific identification related to the risk groups which are most affected by the economic crisis. Thus, to develop the economy and to encourage key community groups at risk, the government should focus on programs that can be implemented at the ground level focusing on such groups.

**Keywords:** rural female-headed households, household savings, economic crisis, household economic vulnerability

# **Revisiting Paleo Climate in the Quaternary of Sri Lanka and Extinct Sabaragamuwa Fauna**

Pathmakumara Jayasingha

*Department of Geography, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

The Quaternary of Sri Lanka is marked by various pieces of evidence including paleo sediments (paleosols) and fossil records found in those paleosols. In general, the Pleistocene has been defined as the time from about 2,580,000 to 11,700 years BP while the Holocene started at the end of it. As Cooray (1983) mentions, those paleo sediment categories as the older and the younger deposits, confirms the influence of climatic shift during the late quaternary in Sri Lanka. This paper revisits the paleoclimate in the Quaternary of Sri Lanka causing the extinction of Sabaragamuwa fauna based on presently available literature. The Pleistocene epoch, considered entirely an ice age, was well marked with the maximum glaciation at about 22,000 years BP indicating that the entire Sri Lanka experienced glaciation with a dry and cold climate. This has been evidenced by Bundala Sand dunes dated as 80,000 years old and some fluvial gravel beds at Pathirajawela dated as 125,000 years old. Hence, the Pathirajwela gravel beds located today at the coast can be a result of the rejuvenation of the fluvial system which had a long distance run to meet the coast at 120 m below from today's strand line. Such changes had caused a land bridge connection between India and Sri Lanka allowing a huge flux of genetic mixing while setting up a suitable environment in Sabaragamuwa for some mammals such as rhinos, hippopotamus, lions, elephants, and many other mammalian species. The reversal of the glacial period started at 11700 years BP at the beginning of the Holocene, had created warm and wet conditions transforming the grassland environment into a rainforest at Sabaragamuwa. This abrupt change in the climate and the environment caused such mammals to extinct.

**Keywords:** Quaternary of Sri Lanka, Paleo climate, Glacial period, Sabaragamuwa fauna

## Climate Change Adaptation and Government Initiatives of Sri Lanka

P.P.G. Jayathilake<sup>1</sup>, P.R.N. Fernando<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Social Policy Analysis and Research Centre, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

<sup>2</sup> *Department of Sociology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Sri Lanka is highly vulnerable to pressures related to climate change. Thus, it is vital to practically implement adaptation measures. However, practical implementation is limited. This study aims (a) to identify the existing governance mechanisms on climate adaptations and (b) the causes behind the lack of implementation of those identified mechanisms. The secondary data were systematically reviewed to identify existing governance mechanisms. The primary data was collected using semi-structured interviews with 40 built environment stakeholders. The collected data was analyzed into themes such as institutional, policy, and legal mechanisms, causes, and suggestions, using thematic analysis. The results revealed that institutions such as the Climate Change Secretariat, the National Expert Committee on Climate Change Adaptation, and the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee on Climate Change have been established. The National Climate Change Policy, Nationally Determined Contributions, and the National Adaptation Plan 2016-2025, etc. show Sri Lanka's policy mechanisms in climate adaptation. Although there are no direct climate change laws and regulations, some other laws and regulations can be applied to climate adaptation. 60% of the respondents stated that the non-existence of a legally empowered body to monitor adaptation mechanisms was the main cause of the lack of implementation of adaptation strategies. 50% of the respondents highlighted that the lack of willingness of the public to adopt such measures and the lack of funding and resources have caused this issue. Other causes of undermining adaptation efforts such as weak institutions, political influence, less coordination among government bodies, and corruption were identified. A legally empowered government institution is highly required to monitor the progress of different adaptation efforts and to take responsibility related to climate change initiatives. Existing policies should be upgraded as laws and public awareness of climate adaptation is important for climate resilience.

**Keywords:** adaptation, climate change, governance

## **Performance of Selected State-Owned Enterprises in Sri Lanka: An Economic Analysis**

Kalaanjali Jesuratnam, K. Amirthalingam

*Department of Economics, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

State-owned enterprises (SOEs) play an important role in the country's economy. 52 SOEs have been identified as strategically important state-owned business enterprises that can catalyse the country's economic transformation. However, many SOEs are performing below expectations, with six entities accounting for 83% of profits and five entities accounting for 97% of losses in 2020. This research focuses on four selected SOEs namely the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, Sri Lankan Airlines, Ceylon Electricity Board, and Sri Lanka Transport Board. Establishing state-owned enterprises is viewed as a strategy in the interventionist approach to development, where the state assumes an active role in steering economic activity. Therefore, owing to poor performances and badly run balance sheets at SOEs for decades, this has further aggravated the economic and fiscal costs for the country. The main objectives of this research project were to examine a range of possibilities to promote better performance in important public enterprises and to incite public discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of changes based on educated analysis. The research methodology consisted of a comprehensive literature review, focus group discussions, and expert consultations. The data used for this research were mainly secondary. The performance of selected SOEs was evaluated through descriptive analysis tools. This study investigated the economic and social costs of the current state of affairs as well as the political forces at work in determining the prospects for change. According to the preliminary findings from the comprehensive literature survey, ongoing monitoring, a distinction between ownership and management, policy reforms, sector regulations, accountability, and privatisation are needed to uplift the performance of SOEs in Sri Lanka.

**Keywords:** State-owned enterprises, privatization, policy reforms, privatisation



## **Outward Built-up Growth of Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte Municipal Council, Sri Lanka**

G. N. Kaushalya, V. P. I. S. Wijeratne

*Department of Geography, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

A rapid urban growth has been seen in most cities worldwide and in Sri Lanka over the last few years. With this unmanaged expansion of the cities, a heavy environmental burden can be identified. Some of the fastest-growing areas include biodiversity hotspots, floodplains, areas of water stress and prime agricultural lands. Because of this, the cities face different challenges and cannot achieve sustainable urbanization. This study focuses on detecting the outward built-up growth and its spatial changes in the Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte (SJK) Municipal Council, Sri Lanka. Landsat 8 data were used to identify the three land use categories; built-up, non-built-up, and water. Supervised Classification Methods were used to classify the land use. The land use change matrix is one of the main methods to quantify land use conversion from one type to another within a selected period of time. Hence, that method was used to identify the land use changes using Arc GIS 10.8 and MS Excel 2019 software. The study found that in 1992, there were 703.26 hectares (42%) of built-up areas, 898.11 hectares (54%) of non-built-up areas and 73.89 hectares (4%) of water areas in the SJK Municipal Council. However, in 2014, the built-up area increased to 1208.88 hectares (72%), while non-built-up areas decreased to 369.72 hectares (22%). Moreover, the water area had increased to 96.66 hectares (6%). 485.19 hectares of non-built-up areas have become built-up areas during this period. The annual changes of the land use types in the SJK Municipal Council stand at, built-up 3.3% (22.98 hectares), non-built-up -2.7% (-24.01 hectares), and water 1.4% (1.03 hectares). This has changed annually between 1992 and 2014. This unmanaged outward growth of built-up areas has predicted the next generation of urbanization in this area. Therefore, this kind of study enables us to identify the various actions that cities can take to achieve sustainable development and create proper guidelines to achieve development in the urbanization of the SJK Municipal Council.

**Keywords:** built-up areas, Land Use Change Matrix, outward growth, SJK Municipal Council, urban growth

## **Homestay Tourism: A Community-based Approach for Empowering Local Communities**

J. N. D. Jayathunga<sup>1</sup>, P. Kirishanthan<sup>1</sup>, M. Karunarathne<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Department of Geography, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

<sup>2</sup> *Department of Demography, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

The rapid expansion of the tourism sector in Sri Lanka in recent decades has given rise to the concept of sustainable tourism. Sustainable homestay tourism development is strongly intertwined with environmentally conscious travel. In this context, one of the most effective ways to encourage community development in tourist destinations where locals play an important role is to stabilize tourism sustainability. Unawatuna, which is located in southern Sri Lanka, is a popular tourist destination and tourism is the primary economic activity in that area. Hence, the aim of the study was to examine the potential of homestay tourism in enhancing the local economy. A questionnaire survey was conducted to collect data from 100 respondents (age 16+) using a purposive sampling method. Relative importance analysis and PESTEL analysis were used to analyse the data. According to the findings, 3% of the respondents are unemployed. Fifty- eight percent of the workforce is engaged in tourism-related activities. Among them, males (80%) dominate the tourism sector in the study area. The study identified three main locations for promoting homestay tourism in this area which are Unawatuna beach area, Jungle beach, and Rumassala Sanctuary. Furthermore, 78% of respondents said that they were eager to begin homestay tourism. The respondents said it would increase job opportunities for locals (63%) and balance gender equity in the tourism industry (74%). Most of the respondents (79%) prefer to combine homestay with environmental and cultural factors such as village life, traditional foods and rituals, nature or workplace tours, religious studies, and visits to religious sites. The study revealed that homestay tourism will enable interaction between tourists and locals for a more flourishing experience in tourism. The research proposes homestay tourism as a viable option for reducing unemployment and household poverty. It has the potential to empower females and aging groups, particularly in tourist destinations.

**Keywords:** homestay tourism, Rumassala, sustainable, Unawatuna

## **The Impact of Crisis on Gender Digital Gaps in Sri Lanka**

Sasini T.K. Kulatunga

*Department of Economics, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Irrespective of the improvements in connectivity and infrastructure, the gender gap in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector remains prominent especially in the Global South. The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent socio-economic crisis saw a shift in the market working into households through digital modes, and an increased use of ICT in everyday socio-economic activities. Nevertheless, empirical evidence from the Sri Lankan context, concerning the effects of the crisis on the Gender Digital Gaps (GDGs) is scarce, and this study attempts to fill this void. Using the Sri Lankan Labour Force Survey data for 2019 and 2020, multidimensional gender digital indices were derived for the working age population, through a Multiple Correspondence Analysis, encompassing dimensions for digital device ownership, usage of ICT and e-skills. The results show a mean (uncontrolled) GDG of 3.8% in 2019 reducing to 3.4% in 2020. The largest dimensional GDGs remain without much change before and during crisis, and were seen in the dimension of digital device ownership (smart phones, tab, and laptop) and in ICT usage (for phone and internet usage). Using an Oaxaca Blinder Recentered Influence Function decomposition, the GDG was decomposed across quintiles and covariates to analyse the composition and the structural effects. The results show that during crisis, the total gap and the structural (unexplained gap) effects had increased across quintiles. English proficiency, age, senior white-collar occupations, household headship, and being single, widen the explained GDG in the higher quintiles of the distribution. The increase in income reduced the explained GDG across the entire distribution, while the explained GDG was narrower for the estate sector and amongst mid-level white-collar workers. Given that income has a loop effect with digital device ownership, an increase in the female real income will reduce the GDG. In addition, addressing gender norms that deprive women (especially middle aged and older women) of the empowerment in ICT is crucial. These measures, coupled with strategies to increase women's contribution in ICT exports will provide avenues to solve the current economic crisis.

**Keywords:** ICT, Gender Digital Gap, Sri Lanka

*Given that lockdowns and detection of patients began in 2020, 2019 is considered as the period before the crisis.*

## **Meditation and Social Harmony: An in-depth Literature Review**

I.M. Lakshman <sup>1</sup>, P.A.M.B. Kumari <sup>2</sup>, M.W. Gunathunga <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

<sup>2</sup> *Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Sri Lanka is predominantly a Buddhist country where people of different ethnic and religious identities have co-existed for hundreds of years. However, during the last few decades, internal conflicts caused death and disability for thousands of people, disrupting social order and social harmony. Though social harmony is a broad term, it has been defined as the peaceful interaction among or co-existence of members of any social group. Meditation trains the mind on non-attachment to one's own self resulting in a substantial reduction of animosity towards others. It is also known to contribute in promoting altruism, compassion, equanimity, social connectedness, care, and respect for others as well as in reducing racial prejudice, aggression, and violent behavior which are capable of facilitating peaceful co-existence. The proposed study attempts to explore the relationship between meditation and social harmony by way of a literature review. It is intended to summarise the findings of the literature review conducted over a period of 12 months. Meditation includes a variety of mental training practices, which facilitate the understanding of emotions, thoughts, feelings, the nature of human beings, and the environment. According to literature, meditation contributes to reducing perceived levels of stress, minimising restlessness and discontent, and enhancing tolerance leading to a better psychological state. It can also reduce racial prejudice, violence, and aggression by way of improving self-awareness. Research has shown that meditation contributes towards solving day-to-day problems wisely, promoting interpersonal kindness, enhancing social connectedness, and coping with anxiety. Available literature shows that meditation can contribute to improve many aspects of social harmony. But there is a dearth of modern scientific research to support this claim directly. Hence, it is intended to develop a tool for exploring the relationship between meditation and social harmony based on the findings made during this literature review.

**Keywords:** literature review, meditation, social harmony

## **Western Folklore and Colour Semiology (with special reference on the fairytales of *The Grimm Brothers*)**

K.G.D.M. Methzika

*Journalism Unit, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Folklore is academically defined as the intellectual perceptions that village folks incorporate into their lives and pass from one prototype to another. Furthermore, folklore can also be interpreted as a complex combination of habits, norms and conventions, talents, legal concepts, art and craft skills, and knowledge and belief. In addition to that, folklore is a complicated mechanism correlated with the lives of the village folks. Fables can be introduced as a scientific method integrated into folklore. Fables are apocryphal narratives inclusive of historical circumstances, heroic characters consisting of supportive characters and abodes. A fable can also be analysed as featuring both a realistic and a fictitious synopsis. Also, folklore accommodates contributions from various traditions. According to western belief, fables introduced within the Diminutive (“Chula”) Tradition are defined as fairy tales. Fairy tales are interpreted as a categorization of folklore consisting of a system of signs and symbols. Furthermore, the presence of a system of signs and symbols is adequately evident in fairy tales for the communication of information with each other. As per semiotics, every message from the media is an implication of two clarifications. They are namely the signified and the signifier. This study is mainly based on significant use of colours in fairy tales. This study mainly focusses on the research problem “what are the meanings reflected through the colour semiology in fairy tales?” The main objective of this research is to identify the psychosocial signs reflected through colour semiology. This research was launched on the hypothesis that the colour semiology in fairy tales might be based on cultural contexts. The content analysis method was used as the data collection method and the textual analysing method was used to analyse data in this research study. Moreover, this research study has followed the purposive sampling method and has used three world famous fairy tales by The Grimm Brothers, namely, Cinderella, Red Riding Hood, and Snow White. The primary conclusion reached in this research is that colour semiology has been used as a major component to reflect psychological, sociological, and cultural contexts.

**Keywords:** semiology, fairy tales, signified, signifier, folklore

## **The Impact of South Indian Culture on Sri Lankan Muslims during the Colonial Era**

Raazi Muhammadh

*Department of History, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

The history of Sri Lankan Muslims traces back to the era prior to the advent of Islam. As many Arabs before, they embraced Islam and have frequently visited Ceylon for various purposes. Muslims of Sri Lanka refers to Sunni Muslims who constitute the majority among the Sri Lankan Muslims. The early Muslim settlements in the Island appeared to have emerged from peaceful infiltration of Arabian merchants and settlers over a considerable period of time. The well-known understanding is that the descendants of Arabs who arrived in Ceylon have espoused local women who were largely a mixed crowd with a considerable infusion of Sinhalese and Dravidian blood. Many authors have adopted the view that Muslims of Sri Lanka are mostly direct descendants of Arabs that have settled in various parts of Sri Lanka. When talking about the history, origin or culture related to Muslims of Sri Lanka, hardly any researchers have discussed the differences between Eastern and Southern Muslims. Moreover, most of the historians have overlooked the cultural and traditional differences between Eastern and Southern Muslims. Without taking into the account the drastic cultural variation between Southern and Eastern Muslims of Sri Lanka, many academics and writers have concluded that the Sri Lankan Muslims are direct descendants of Arabs. This understanding needs a revisit. This is because a close scrutiny of the culture of the Eastern Muslims of Sri Lanka represents a clear cultural similarity between South India even more than the similarities they have with the Arabs. Some of those cultural practices exclusively belong to South India and are not seen in any other part of Sri Lanka. This fact has been overlooked by many historians who have worked on Sri Lankan Muslim history. This study would mainly look into areas such as the *Kudi* System – a matrilineal social arrangement, *Marikkar* system in the mosque leadership, Religious/ Cultural functions and ceremonies, Sufi order in the Eastern Province and some Tamil Terminology to analyse the cultural differences between Eastern and Southern Muslims. Thus, this study traces the cultural roots of Sri Lankan Muslims through South India during the colonial era.

**Keywords:** South India, Muslims of Sri Lanka, cultural impact, colonial era

## **Enhancing the Learning Management System (LMS), Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo**

F. N. Musthafa, L. Nilaweera

*Digital Humanities Laboratory, Department of English, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Learning Management Systems (LMSs) are now an essential educational technology in teaching-learning spaces. As platforms managing teacher-student user experiences, it is crucial that LMSs are well-equipped and constantly optimised to meet the needs of diverse users. This paper presents the findings and recommendations of an evaluative exercise, where the LMS of the Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo was reviewed with the aim of identifying any prevailing gaps in functionality when used by students-with-disabilities (SWDs). The gaps in functionality presented in this paper are identified based on several reflections via interviews from staff and students (one of whom is a student-with-disabilities) of the Faculty of Arts on the use of the LMS. This is supported by a close review of the LMS, where the researchers were provided the experiences of the LMS users from the perspectives of a teacher's portal and a student's portal, by a staff member and student respectively. Our preliminary findings and recommendations were also shared with a staff member with expertise on disability studies, whose insights have further informed this paper. Two key notable gaps were identified in this study: a) difficulties in easily accessing several existing functionalities (e.g., navigation) and b) the presence of compatibility issues in the platform which need improvement (e.g., cross-browser functionality issues). The recommendations are first presented in the paper as immediately workable solutions (e.g.: reorganising menu hierarchies). They are then used to signal the importance of anticipating and responding to time-sensitive shifts in usage patterns of educational technology to optimise the learning experiences of students-with-disabilities.

**Keywords:** Learning Management Systems (LMS), educational technologies, students-with-disabilities (SWDs), e-learning

*Acknowledgement: This research was supported by the Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) Operation of the Ministry of Higher Education funded by the World Bank.*

## **DHLab 101: Hosting Open Educational Resources (OER) through a Digital Humanities Laboratory**

L. Nilaweera, F.N. Musthafa

*Digital Humanities Laboratory, Department of English, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

The Covid-19 pandemic necessitated a rapid shift to digital modes of education both globally and locally. The shift has also revealed the need to address the lack of freely available and easily accessible digital educational resources. Open educational resources (OER) is one possible solution to address this gap. OERs are designed to encourage collaborative learning, and to provide free and easy access to knowledge. The Digital Humanities Laboratory (DHLab)'s online platform is a recently established space dedicated to pedagogy and research in an English Studies classroom. The platform displays potential as a hub for OERs, in instructional and research settings for teachers, students and researchers. The paper explores the platform's potential as an OER hub, via a close review of the platform's corpus resources. The first resource is a collection of corpora of Sri Lankan English(es) (SLEs), one compiled by the DHLab, and two contributed as collaborative research initiatives by scholars who work on SLEs. The constellation of corpora evidences the ability of the platform to build both knowledge and research communities. The second resource is the SLENC Concordance Tool, a basic text analysis tool developed by the DHLab, housed on the platform. 10-million words of the Sri Lanka English Newspaper Corpus (SLENC) can be accessed via this tool to perform KWIC (key-word-in-context) searches. The SLENC data have so far been used in the construction of items for English language tests (e.g., cloze passages), and have highlighted the presence of innovations in verb complement structures in SLEs. The latter findings are useful for both teachers and students of English, as they point to lexicogrammatical changes in SLE as a distinct South Asian variety of English. The paper concludes by pointing to the DHLab's capacity to encourage collaborative and openly accessible teaching-learning and research resources.

**Keywords:** DHLab, Sri Lankan English(es) (SLE), Sri Lanka English Newspaper Corpus (SLENC), Open Educational Resources (OER)

*Acknowledgment: This research was supported by the Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) Operation of the Ministry of Higher Education funded by the World Bank.*



## **The Sri Lankan Civil War 2005-2009: The Christian Perspective**

Lathika Asiri Niriella

*Department of History, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

This paper looks at the Sri Lankan Civil War from the perspective of the Christian community in Sri Lanka. The Christian Community in the country consists of Sinhalese, Burghers, and Tamils. What were they thinking about the Civil War in Sri Lanka? Were they supporting or opposing the government's efforts to continue the War from 2005-2009? What were their contribution to the war effort? These are some of the questions addressed in this paper. There was an impression that the Sri Lankan Christian community was supporting the secession of the North-East of Sri Lanka. This idea is also addressed in this paper. The major part of the Sri Lankan history is written from the Sinhala-Buddhist perspective. Therefore, this paper studies the way the Christian community views and perceives the Sri Lankan history with special reference to the final phase of the Civil War. This is a first step towards developing further research on how the Christians, the Hindus, and the Muslims view Sri Lankan history and appreciating their contribution to Sri Lankan culture. The data collection for this thesis was done through records of oral histories. A questionnaire was administered to selected individuals from the Sinhalese, Tamil, and Burgher communities. Numerical data were used in identifying the contribution of the Christian community in the war (for example, the percentage of the Christians in the armed forces etc.). Furthermore, various theories of nationalism are considered to examine the different viewpoints regarding the civil war. Therefore, this paper attempts to study how the Buddhist community perceives the Christians and vice versa.

**Keywords:** Civil War, Christian community, Sri Lankan history, nationalism

## **Business as Usual: An Autoethnographic Study of ESL Teacher Identity during the Sri Lankan Economic Crisis**

Nandula Perera

*Department of English Language Teaching, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Sri Lanka is facing the worst economic crisis of its history. Its impact is felt in all spheres of life, including education. This study analyses autoethnographic records I maintained, as an ESL teacher and researcher, in April and May of 2022 – two months where the country’s economic crisis led to the ‘GotaGoHome’ movement. The objective of the study is to explore the ESL teacher and researcher identities created in the backdrop of the economic crisis and consequent social unrest, with institutional demands to continue business as usual. I employed autoethnographic records as the tool of data generation (Mason, 2002) as they provide an insider’s perspective (Jones et al., 2016) of the unfolding life events that created unprecedented pressures in the lives of every Sri Lankan, including myself. It also allows a critique of cultural experiences through personal experiences (Jones et al., 2016). The analysis of autoethnographic records highlighted the difficulty in maintaining my teacher and researcher identities in this time of crisis. As a teacher, I recorded the struggle of carrying out the basic responsibilities of teaching, grading, and coordinating with colleagues. While struggling to maintain my teacher identity, I experienced sentiments of anxiety and panic over instances such as the student management systems maintained by the university being disrupted due to continual power cuts, implying the impending danger of losing the limited facilities available to teach online. The records also express sentiments of self-doubt and guilt for not being ‘resilient enough’. As a researcher, I identify the disparity between myself and colleagues from other countries, who post on Twitter about issues related to conferences and tenure—issues that I consider to have arisen from a place of privilege. I express sentiments of frustration, disillusionment, and anger over the unjust and insensitive institutional demands for meeting common ‘international’ standards and being on par with the international academic community. I record how keeping up with the academic world becomes less of a priority in the battle for survival. The study records how the demand to continue business as usual during the economic crisis significantly threatens my ESL teacher and researcher identities.

**Keywords:** autoethnographic records, identity, ESL, economic crisis

## **The Importance of Tax Education on Revenue Collection in Sri Lanka**

I.S. Randeniya, K. Amirthalingam

*Department of Economics, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Sri Lanka's tax revenue to GDP (tax ratio) in 2021 stood at 7.7%, which is an alarming fiscal challenge for the country's development. This rate is below that of a middle-income country and even below the average of low-income countries. Tax theory and experience of developed and fast-developing countries show that tax education is important to improve the voluntary compliance of consumers and businesses to pay tax. Given the need to increase the tax ratio, this research investigates the importance of tax education on revenue collection in Sri Lanka. Previous Sri Lankan studies related to tax evasion ethics and determinants of tax compliance behaviour have suggested solutions for the government and Inland Revenue Department. Tax education has caught the attention of other developing countries, although in Sri Lanka, there is a dearth of research on the importance of tax education – a gap this study aims to fulfill. This research used Central Bank and Ministry of Finance annual reports from 2002 to 2021 as secondary data and in-depth interviews with relevant stakeholders as primary data. While graphical presentation and narrative and thematic qualitative techniques are used to analyse data, the level of tax compliance and tax education are analysed using descriptive statistics. Findings show that tax reforms in Sri Lanka have been unsuccessful due to inconsistency, inefficiency, and insufficient technology. Even though the importance of tax education has not been assessed so far, the experience of other countries shows an increase in revenue collection by raising awareness on taxing through initiatives such as TV shows and social media campaigns. Sri Lanka's insufficient tax education can be addressed by providing tax education through high school or university education to improve compliance and change attitudes toward taxing. Despite the limited time and funding available for this research, the findings provide evidence or guidance for policymakers to make future policy decisions.

**Keywords:** taxpayer education, tax compliance, tax revenue

# **An Analysis of the Vulnerability of the Dengue Epidemic in Badulla Divisional Secretariat Division, Sri Lanka**

S.M.N.S. Senanayaka, E.M.S. Ranasinghe

*Department of Geography, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

According to the statistics of the Dengue Control Unit in Sri Lanka, every year, more than 25000 dengue patients had been reported from 2010 to 2021 and Badulla District is one of the highly vulnerable districts to this epidemic. Therefore, this study attempted to analyze the demographic factors along with the social, economic, and physical/infrastructure dimensions of the vulnerability of dengue in the Badulla Divisional Secretariat Division (DSD). The study was based on the primary data obtained from a sample of 102 dengue-affected families in 2019 and the secondary data was obtained from the Health Service Director's Office and the Municipal Office of Health in Badulla. The Two Way ANOVA statistical test was used to explore the correlation between the dengue risk and demographic factors. A vulnerability index was used to quantify the social, economic, and physical/infrastructure vulnerabilities of the epidemic. Five indicators were used to assess the social and economic vulnerability and six indicators were used to assess the physical/infrastructure vulnerability. The results of the study showed that there is a statistically significant correlation between the age groups and the dengue epidemic in the study area. The social vulnerability of the epidemic is relatively low in the study area, representing the vulnerability categories of 'very low' and 'low' by 53% of the sample. However, fairly a higher percentage (34%) is shown to be at medium-level vulnerability. The economic vulnerability of the epidemic is remarkably low in the area, where 63% represented the category of 'very low' while another 25% could be seen in the category of 'low'. The physical/infrastructure vulnerability of the epidemic is also relatively low in the study area, the categories of 'very low' and 'low' are represented by 65% of the sample. Overall, the average values of social vulnerability, economic vulnerability, and physical/infrastructure vulnerability were 0.5, 0.34, and 0.45 respectively. Accordingly, the study concluded that the social and physical/infrastructure vulnerabilities of the dengue epidemic are relatively high in the Badulla DSD. Therefore, the study recommended that awareness programs and dengue prevention strategies should be implemented within the social and physical/infrastructure determinants of the Badulla DSD.

**Keywords:** Badulla Divisional Secretariat Division, dengue, Two Way ANOVA, vulnerability

**බොම්බේ හා වීර්සාරා බොලිවුඩ් රොමාන්තික සිනමා නිර්මාණ මගින් නිරූපිත  
ජනවාර්ගික ගැටුම් තේමා**

එස්. ඒ. ෆාතිමා ශානාස්

ජනමාධ්‍ය අංශය, කොළඹ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව

බොලිවුඩ් සිනමාව ඉන්දියාවේ පමණක් නො ව ලෝකයේ බොහෝ රටවල ජනප්‍රිය වී ඇති සිනමා කර්මාන්තයකි. බොලිවුඩ් සිනමාවේ අද්විතීය ලක්ෂණය වන්නේ ඒ සිනමාව ජනප්‍රිය සිනමා සංරචකවලින් පෝෂණයට පත් ව තිබීම යි. බොහෝ බොලිවුඩ් සිනමා නිර්මාණ මසාලා චිත්‍රපට ප්‍රවර්ග (Masala Cinema Genre) සංරචකවලින් යුක්ත වේ. ජනප්‍රිය සිනමා සංරචකවලින් යුක්ත වුවත්, මේ සිනමා නිර්මාණ මගින් ප්‍රමුඛ සමාජ, ආර්ථික, ආගමික හා දේශපාලනික ගැටලු සාකච්ඡා කරනු ලැබේ. එහි දී ඉන්දියාවට දේශපාලනික ව හා ඓතිහාසික ව වැදගත් වන අන්තරාගමික හා ජාතිවාදී ගැටලුව ද සාකච්ඡා කරනු ලබන ආකාරය හඳුනාගැනීමට හැකි වේ. මේ පර්යේෂණය මගින් බොම්බේ හා වීර්සාරා සිනමා නිර්මාණ ද්විත්වයෙහි දේශපාලනික හා ජනවාර්ගික තේමා සාකච්ඡා කර ඇති ආකාරය ගවේෂණය කිරීම, ඒ සඳහා භාවිත සිනමාත්මක ලක්ෂණ හඳුනාගැනීම හා සමාජයීය ගැටලු සාකච්ඡා කිරීමට සිනමා මාධ්‍ය යොදා ගැනීමට ඇති හැකියාව හඳුනාගැනීම අපේක්ෂා කරයි. මෙහි දී අන්තර්ගත විශ්ලේෂණ ක්‍රමවේදය යටතේ දෘශ්‍ය හා ශ්‍රව්‍ය භාෂාත්මක ප්‍රවේශයකින් මේ සිනමා නිර්මාණයන්හි සංස්කෘතිකමය පාඨවල අර්ථ අධ්‍යයනය කරනු ලැබේ. එහි දී සිනමා ආබ්‍යාන විග්‍රහයත්, ඒ ආබ්‍යාන ගොඩනැගීම සඳහා යොදා ගෙන ඇති සිනමා සංරචක විශ්ලේෂණයත්, කතා තේමා ගොඩනැගීම සඳහා භාවිත ආගමික, දේශපාලනික සහ සමාජීය සංකල්ප පිළිබඳ ව හා සිනමාරූපී භාවිතය පිළිබඳවත් විශ්ලේෂණය කර තිබේ. එහි දී සිනමාපටවල පෙළ, සිද්ධි හා අවස්ථා විශ්ලේෂණය මගින් තේමාව, කථා ආබ්‍යානය, චරිත සංවර්ධනය, දේශපාලන තේමා හා ජනවාර්ගික ගැටුම, සිනමා සන්නිවේදනය වැනි කරුණු කෙරෙහි අවධානය යොමු කොට තිබේ. මේ පර්යේෂණයේ නිගමන අතර මුඛ්‍ය නිගමනය බවට පත් වන්නේ ජනවාර්ගික ගැටුම් සන්නිවේදනයෙහි ලා රොමාන්තික සිනමා ප්‍රවර්ගය (Romantic Cinema Genre) විශිෂ්ට ලෙස යොදා ගත හැකි බව ය. ආගමික බෙදීම්වල නිෂ්ඵලතාව නිරූපණයෙහි ලා සිනමා මාධ්‍යයට ඇති ප්‍රබල හැකියාවත්, ජනප්‍රිය සිනමා සංරචකවලින් මේ තේමා අපූර්ව ආකාරයෙන් ප්‍රේක්ෂකයා වෙත රැගෙන යාමේ හැකියාවත් මෙහි දී හඳුනාගෙන ඇත. තව ද, බොලිවුඩ් රොමාන්තික සිනමාවේ ජනවාර්ගික හා දේශපාලනික තේමා සිද්ධි හා අවස්ථා ගොඩනැගීම හා චරිත නිරූපණය ඔස්සේ ප්‍රේමය, සහෝදරත්වය, මිත්‍රත්වය වැනි මිනිස් සම්බන්ධතා සිනමාරූපී ව නිර්මාණය කිරීම මගින් ගොඩනගා ඇති බව ද නිගමනය කළ හැකි විය.

**ප්‍රමුඛ පද -** ජනප්‍රිය බොලිවුඩ් සිනමාව, ජනවාර්ගික ගැටුම්, සිනමා සංරචක, සිනමා සන්නිවේදනය

## අර්බුද අවස්ථාවක දී මහජන මතය හැඩ ගැස්වීමෙහි ලා පුවත්පත් මාධ්‍ය භාවිතය

වාලිකා සසිකානි තංගරාජා

ජනමාධ්‍ය අංශය, කොළඹ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව

කිසියම් සමාජයක බහුතර ප්‍රජාවකගේ ප්‍රමුඛ අවධානයට පාත්‍ර වන නිශ්චිත මාතෘකාවක් අලලා ඉදිරිපත් ව ඇති පුද්ගල අදහස්, ආකල්ප හා විශ්වාසවල එකතුවක් මහජන මතය වශයෙන් සරල ව නිර්වචනය කළ හැකි වෙයි. ඇතැම් විද්වතුන්, සියලු ප්‍රජාවගේ හෝ ප්‍රජාවගෙන් යම් කොටසක් දරන අදහස්වල සංශ්ලේෂණයක් මහජන මතය ලෙස සලකන අතර ඇතැම් අය එය බොහෝ වෙනස් හෝ ප්‍රතිවිරුද්ධ අදහස්වල එකතුවක් ලෙස සලකති. ආර්ථිකමය, දේශපාලනමය හෝ සමාජයීය වශයෙන් දැඩි දූෂිතතා හෝ අවදානම් සහිත අර්බුදකාරී සමයක දී යම් රටකට අයත් ප්‍රජාවකගේ මහජන මතය කෙරෙහි සෘජු හෝ වක්‍රාකාරයෙන් බලපෑම් එල්ල කිරීමට පුවත්පත් මාධ්‍ය උපයෝගී කොටගත හැකි ය. මේ අධ්‍යයනය මගින් අපේක්ෂා කරන්නේ 2022 වර්ෂයේ ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ආර්ථික අර්බුදය කේන්ද්‍ර කරගනිමින් මහජන මතය හැඩ ගැස්වීමෙහි ලා පුවත්පත් මාධ්‍ය භාවිතයේ ස්වභාවය පිළිබඳ අධ්‍යයනය කිරීම යි. එහි දී, මහජන මතය හැඩ ගැස්වීමෙහි ලා පුවත්පත් මගින් උපයෝගී කොටගන්නා ලද ශිල්ප විධික්‍රම පිළිබඳ හඳුනා ගැනීමටත්, එමගින් මාධ්‍ය හිමිකාරත්වයේ අරමුණු පිළිබිඹු කෙරෙන ආකාරය හඳුනා ගැනීමටත් අපේක්ෂා කෙරේ. යථෝක්ත ආර්ථික අර්බුද සමයේ දී පාඨකයාගේ මහජන මතය හැඩ ගැස්වීමෙහි ලා පුවත්පත් වාර්තාකරණයේ උපයෝගීතාව කවරාකාර ද? යන්න අධ්‍යයනයෙහි පර්යේෂණ ගැටලුව යි. මෙරට ආර්ථික අර්බුදයේ පැවැති යථා තත්ත්වය වාර්තාකරණයට වඩා මාධ්‍ය හිමිකාරත්වයේ දේශපාලනික අරමුණු ඉටු කරගනිමින් මහජන මතය ඊට පක්ෂපාතී ව හැඩ ගැස්වීමට පුවත්පත් වාර්තාකරණය උපයෝගී කොටගෙන ඇති බව මේ අධ්‍යයනයේ උපන්‍යාසය යි. එහි දී, 2022 වර්ෂයේ මැයි 01 වැනි දා සිට ජූලි මස 31 වැනි දා දක්වා වූ පළ වූ දී රාජ්‍ය හා පෞද්ගලික පුවත්පත් දෙකක් වන දිනපතා ලංකාදීප හා දිනමිණ පුවත්පත්වල ප්‍රවෘත්ති වාර්තා අධ්‍යයනය සඳහා යොදාගෙන ඇත. අදාළ පුවත්පත් වාර්තා අන්තර්ගත විශ්ලේෂණයට ලක් කරමින් එමගින් මහජන මතය හැඩ ගැස්වීමෙහි ලා කළ කාර්යය මෙහි දී ගුණාත්මක ව විශ්ලේෂණය කර තිබේ. ආර්ථික අර්බුදය අලලා පාඨකයාට පූර්ණ දැනුවත් භාවයක් ලබා දෙමින් ඊට උචිත වන පරිද්දෙන් පාඨකයා භෞතික ව හා මානසික ව සුදානම් කරවීම ප්‍රමුඛ සන්නිවේදන අවශ්‍යතා වුව ද අධ්‍යයනය සඳහා යොදාගත් පුවත්පත් ද්විත්වය එවැනි වාර්තාකරණයක නියැළී නොමැති බව හඳුනාගත හැකි ය. විශේෂයෙන් ම, සමාජයේ ප්‍රමුඛ අවධානයට පාත්‍ර විය යුතු ආර්ථික අර්බුදය පිළිබඳ වාර්තාකරණයේ දී ප්‍රවෘත්තිවල පැවතිය යුතු නිරවද්‍යතාව, අපක්ෂපාතිත්වය, නිරවුල්තාව හා විශ්වසනීයත්වය වැනි ප්‍රමුඛ සංරචක හා අවම ප්‍රමිතීන් පුවත්පත් වාර්තාකරණයෙන් ගිලිහී ගොස් ඇත. එවැනි පුවත්පත් වාර්තාකරණ මගින් මහජන මතය හැඩ ගැස්වීමේ දී ආයතනික න්‍යාය පත්‍ර හා මාධ්‍ය හිමිකාරත්වයෙහි දේශපාලනික අරමුණු කෙරෙහි පමණක් කේන්ද්‍රීය අවධානයක් යොමු කර තිබෙනු අධ්‍යයනය මගින් තහවුරු වෙයි. විශේෂයෙන් ම, සිය ආයතනික න්‍යාය පත්‍ර හා දේශපාලනික රුචිකම් කෙරෙහි පාඨකයා පක්ෂපාතී කරගැනීමට ප්‍රයත්න දරන ආකාරය පැහැදිලි ව හඳුනාගත හැකි ය. එහි දී, ප්‍රවෘත්ති වාර්තාකරණයේ ශිල්ප විධික්‍රම මහජන මතය හැඩ ගැස්වීමෙහි ලා වඩාත් උපක්‍රමශීලී ආකාරයකින් යොදාගෙන තිබෙන බව නිගමනය කළ හැකි ය.

**ප්‍රමුඛ පද** - අර්බුදය, මහජන මතය, මහජන මතය හැඩගැස්වීම, පුවත්පත් වාර්තාකරණය, ආයතනික න්‍යායපත්‍ර

## **Ethnic Conflict, Building Peace, and the External Intervention in Democratic Reforms in Sri Lanka**

M. Wakkumbura

*Department of International Relations, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

This paper focuses on Sri Lanka's experience with external actors in liberal democratic reformations to address the question of self-determination for the Tamil community. The ethnic conflict has resulted in a civil war, which has had a significant impact on the country's political stability and democratic practices. This situation created a political environment in which external intervention could be used to promote liberal democratic reforms. The paper examines two concurrent domestic projects, i.e., (a) the democratic constitutional reforms and (b) the liberal peacebuilding before and after the civil war. Under a variety of governments in power, the two projects instilled a number of critical external interventions for democratic reforms. The case study restricts external intervention to democratic reforms implemented by the United National Party government in power since 1977 and onwards, which implemented the executive presidency and liberal economic reforms—also by recognizing that some complex relationships between external and internal relations on cultural, ideological, political, and economic bases. Different governments in power were equally effective at stabilizing or destabilizing the external affairs of the country. The paper utilizes a qualitative case study approach. This paper is an excerpt from the author's larger project on democracy building in Sri Lanka, which included key interviews with political leaders, bureaucrats, civil society leaders, and members of the Sri Lankan diaspora—also comprising qualitative data gathered from previous research. In the backdrop of the economic liberalization process, constitutional reforms, and peacebuilding, this paper places the research question of why external intervention has become a driving factor in democratic reforms in Sri Lanka and to what extent it impacts solving the ethnic issue. This paper posits its conclusion, in which external actors become key directives for democratic reformations in response to domestic political failures and ethnic disagreements to compromise on a political solution. In a larger context, geopolitical and strategic influences are also factors that cannot be undermined when evaluating external intervention during the last two decades being more critical. Therefore, managing both political stability and domestic consensus on democratic reforms and their implementation becomes some key elements of managing external interventions.

**Keywords:** democratic reforms, external intervention, peace building, Sri Lanka

***“Ineligible or Intelligible?” Pronunciation of ‘training’ and the Novice National Radio  
(English) Broadcaster: An Initial Study***

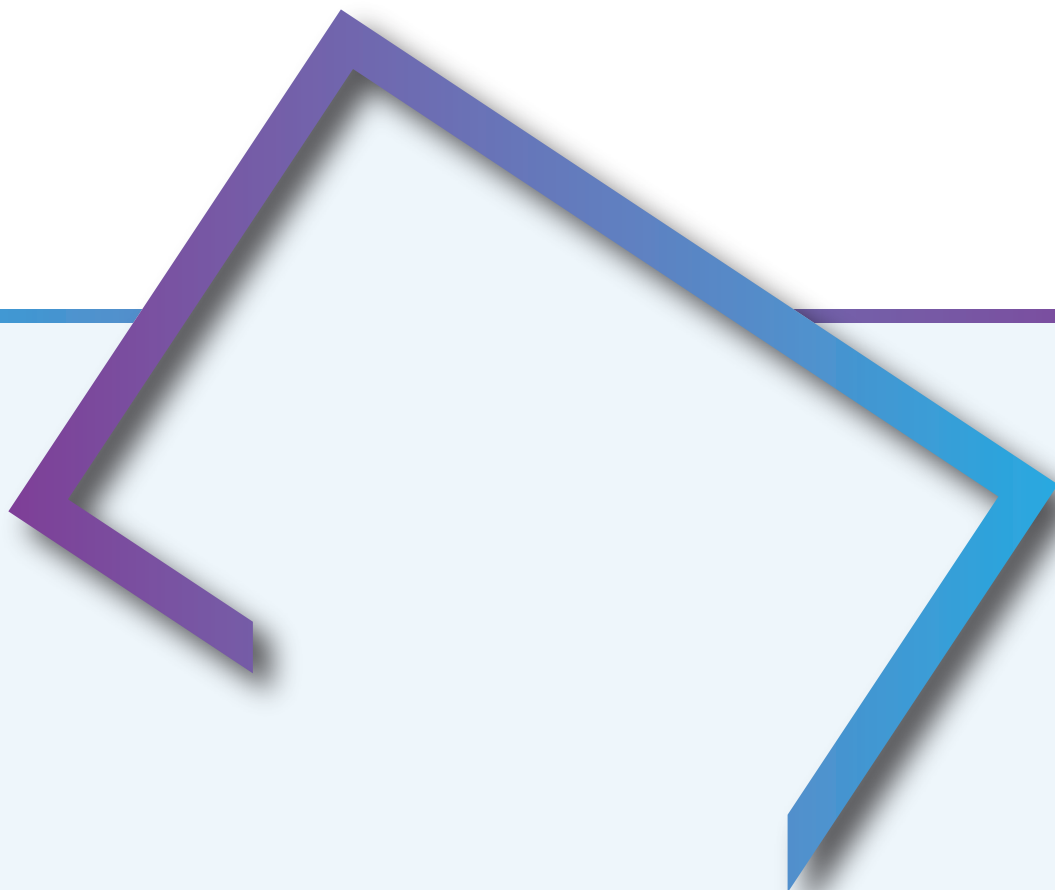
R. M. Wijayawardhana

*Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

News bulletins on the National English Radio are generally considered a point of reference for teaching English pronunciation to novice state radio broadcasters. Pronunciation teaching/training of novice broadcasters primarily operates with the news bulletin as it is aired, by trainers in the radio training space. However, at present, the English State Radio news broadcast is made available via YouTube. This has revolutionised the manner in which the State English Radio operates in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Sri Lanka. The digital mode enables permanency in a previously non-permanent broadcast setting. This digital archive of previous utterance(s) makes it possible to access the news bulletin in a non-broadcast setting. It now stands as a retrievable source for learning pronunciation for the novice State English broadcasters. This initial study analyses 24 news bulletins of all the English News Readers on National Radio of the year 2022, aired from the digitally archived space and asserts that the on-air radio news bulletin which was considered the norm for teaching pronunciation to novice radio broadcasters in the National Radio (English) is problematic, primarily by virtue of the lack of uniformity.

**Keywords:** pronunciation, broadcast, teaching





**Supported by the Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD)  
Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo (Program ID: P159995)**

