



IRCHSS 2016

THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE
ON
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
(IRCHSS – 2016)

“Transformation for Empowerment: Moving beyond Buzzwords”

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

10th & 11th November, 2016

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Sri Jayewardenepura
Nugegoda, Sri Lanka

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Dr Chitra Jayathilake
Conference Chair



Mr Senani Harischandra
Conference Secretary

“The purpose of intellect is the transformation of a miracle to something understandable”

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

Initiated in 2012 and organised annually by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka, the International Research Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) is a supportive and nurturing research environment for the dissemination of knowledge and the mutual critical discussion of research related to Humanities and Social Sciences. Its credibility has enabled it to become a genuine pioneer, and to be one of the most trusted conferences within the university system in Sri Lanka.

Now proudly into its 5th stage as IRCHSS-2016, it is geared up to transform for empowerment and social innovation, and to move beyond catchphrases, as per its theme ‘Transformation for Empowerment: Moving beyond Buzzwords’. Its intent is to unlock and reframe the perception of empowerment through a nexus, concerted thinking and collaborative work. Moreover, the reliance on the knowledge of Humanities and Social Sciences for the national and global development continues to mushroom; hence, it is imperative that we deal with a host of issues and challenges, by transforming miracles to ‘something understandable’, to cite Einstein. In order to reach this intent, IRCHSS-2016 creates a forum for the comparative treatment of ideas, cutting-edge issues and problems. By drawing together diverse viewpoints for discriminating new ideas and supporting emerging perspectives, it invigorates, enlivens and encourages international, intercultural and interdisciplinary dialogue. It constructs a space where

academics, practitioners, researchers and professionals around the world come together to share their knowledge, experiences and research. Accordingly, the conference is enriched with two keynote addresses, the chief guest's speech, the poster presentation named 'Crossing spatiality and temporality', the symposium on media and society titled 'Concerted thinking and collaborative work', and 28 parallel technical sessions, plus the conference closing ceremony where awards of excellence are presented.

The tremendous response to our call-for-papers indicates the vigor and prominence of this conference and confirms that IRCHSS has become a renowned setting for all aspects of Humanities and Social Sciences related topics. After the review process, 161 papers were selected for oral presentation and 27 papers for interactive poster presentations. This volume contains - in addition to the synopses of keynote addresses and the chief guest's speech - a collection of 188 abstracts by researchers from over 10 countries, including Sri Lanka, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Netherlands, Norway, Czech Republic, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Bangladesh, and the United Kingdom.

Organising an international conference of this scale would have been impossible if not for the cordial collaboration, the unstinting support and the multitude of services of many individuals; there are no words to adequately express the depth of our appreciation to those who have made this conference a reality and success, nor are we able to list everyone here who deserves acknowledgement. We would like to admit with gratitude the immense contribution extended to us by the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of Keele, UK and the Research Director, Professor Scott McCracken of Queen Mary, University of London, UK as Keynote Speakers, and Professor Rohan Samarajiva, the Founding Chair of LIRENasia as the Chief Guest of the conference. Mr. Wijayananda Jayaweera, Former Director, UNESCO International Programme of Development Communication, Dr Mahim Mendis (Senior Lecturer of the Open University of Sri Lanka), Mr Amal Jayasinghe (Sri Lanka Bureau Chief of Agency France-Presse/ AFP) and Mr Asoka Dias (Director Station, MTV Channel (Pvt) Limited) also deserve much appreciation for being the invited speakers of the symposium on media and society. We must also extend our heartfelt gratitude to the university lecturers ranging from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka to the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom for their voluntary support extended to us as reviewers, editors and adjudicators of the abstracts. This message must contain our sincere thanks to the authors of the research studies for sending their abstracts and sharing their knowledge with the wider community at the conference. A message of appreciation should also be conveyed to the administrative body and the academic and non-academic staff of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura; in particular the Vice Chancellor, the former and the current Deans and the Bursar of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The support by co-conveners and assistant co-conveners, technicians, comperes and performers, student ambassadors, the web-committee and minor staff members is immense and highly cherished. Cordiality and cooperation of the organising committee and the conference assistant is boundless and unparalleled; IRCHSS-2016's theme focuses, in many ways, on collaboration so does the team behind the conference – we have acted in concert.

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR



Professor Sampath Amaratunge
Vice Chancellor
University of Sri Jayewardenepura
Nugegoda
Sri Lanka

It is indeed a pleasure to send this message on the occasion of the International Research Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS–2016) organised by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka. This conference which is organized for the fifth consecutive year highlights the tremendous significance attached to research and dissemination of knowledge by FHSS enabling scholars and researchers from around the world to showcase their novel perspectives on diverse issues. The FHSS, being constantly in pursuit of innovation and transformation, has always upheld this kind of research forum which by now has been established as a tradition within the faculty.

As reflected in its theme, '*Transformation for Empowerment: Moving beyond Buzzwords*', this conference offers an excellent forum for scholars and professionals to address issues related to empowerment and thus make a concerted effort to actually move beyond buzzwords and take bold decisions and initiate implementation. I am sure, this will indeed be a challenging task for all the stakeholders of the conference because, transformation, as witnessed in the Sri Lankan context is a slow process characterized by constraints and obstacles. Yet, making an initiative to put this to the scrutiny of an intellectual audience will help view both transformation and empowerment in multiple perspectives which will no doubt reshape the perception of the both and thus arrive at viable solutions for the related problems. In my view, this is putting things on the correct track because it is the academics and professionals who should come out with new insights for the diverse issues related to these.

The success of the symposium very much depends on the untiring efforts of the symposium committee and other stakeholders who have patronized this event in diverse ways. While thanking all of them for their commitment and contribution to make this event a success, I also take this opportunity to congratulate all the paper presenters of IRCHSS-2016.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Dr. D.P.S. Chandrakumara
Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social
Sciences
University of Sri Jayewardenepura Sri Lanka

Welcome to IRCHSS - 2016!

It is my great pleasure to share a few words in the proceedings of IRCSS-2016. The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura is one of the oldest centers of higher education in Sri Lanka. The faculty, being one of the oldest, conducts study programs in two domains of disciplines, Humanities and Social Sciences. As we all know, these two domains of disciplines play a vital role in a rapidly changing social context attributable to urbanization and related changes. As such, the researchers of the faculty strive to address the real issues of this changing society through their research. IRCHSS is an excellent forum to reveal their findings in combination with the findings related to similar issues from other developing countries of the world.

The conference has become popular in Sri Lanka as well as in the countries of South Asia because it provides opportunities to present papers in a wider range of fields of study, including multidisciplinary research. In addition, the quality of the conference is maintained at a higher level through standard conference procedures including a double blind review process. Since the focus is on Humanities and Social Sciences, it seems that the methodologies of researchers have surpassed the boundaries of the positivist scientific paradigm and its integration with interpretive and social critical theory with advanced qualitative and quantitative techniques.

The proceedings, which will be made available on the conference website in the near future, show the extent and the strength of the faculty in networking the research community around the world. The findings and recommendations of the researchers will be useful for academics, practitioners and especially for the policy makers in relevant fields. It is hoped that the conference presentations and discussions would serve as the basis for the dissemination of knowledge. The concerted efforts from all the parties involved are indeed highly appreciated.

SYNOPSIS OF KEYNOTE ADDRESS – I

Urban Transformation and Universities for Regional and Emotional Empowerment: Patrick Geddes as a Global Victorian



Professor David Amigoni
Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research and Enterprise
Keele University
UK

Patrick Geddes was a polymath Victorian thinker who trained originally as a biologist, though he is best known today as an urban planner and he played an important role in developing sociology in Britain. In truth, his thought can not be easily contained by the 'map' of disciplines that came into being during the late Victorian period. My talk will show how Geddes battled against the 'buzzwords' that shaped liberal individualist economic thought of the nineteenth century, striving to construct so-called 'thinking machines', diagrams and plans that would get him beyond conventional structures of meaning. A key moment in Geddes' transformation of existing thinking emerged from his time employed as an urban planner in British colonial India -- where he drew on comparative experiences of urban reform between east and west. In developing his thought, Geddes was also profoundly concerned with the role of the university as a vital 'centre' of a city or a region, and my talk will reflect on some of the ways in which Geddes' thinking on the role of universities at the end of the nineteenth century prefigures much of today's thinking about the role of universities as 'anchor institutions' within their cities or regions. My talk will reflect on the role of engaged, university-based humanities and social science research in developing new models of emotional empowerment that continue to have resonance for attempts to think 'globally' today through the connectedness of a region.

SYNOPSIS OF KEYNOTE ADDRESS – 2

Transformation for Disempowerment? Culture and Small Nations in the Age of Globalisation



Scott McCracken
Professor of Twentieth-Century Literature
Department of English
Queen Mary, University of London
UK

My paper takes its cue from the controversy sparked by the coincidence of the screening of the television adaptation of Diana Gabaldon's popular historical romance, *Outlander*, and the Scottish referendum on national independence in September 2014. In short, a leaked email suggested that Sony chose to delay the screening of the series in Britain in case Gabaldon's tale of Scottish insurrection in the eighteenth century upset the British government and affected Sony's plans for future investment in the region.

The example might seem of local interest only, but it raises interesting questions about national autonomy in an age of global culture, particularly the autonomy of small nations. That the case involved Scotland signifies beyond its borders, because since the Enlightenment, popularised by authors such as Walter Scott in novels like *Waverley* (1814), Scotland has become a symbol of the small nation battling against its unwilling incorporation into a larger world system. As Franco Moretti has shown conclusively, Walter Scott was one of the first writers to achieve an international audience. His popularity extended throughout Europe to North America and beyond. Scott's novels had a wide-ranging impact across space and time. In France, they are the narratives that turn Emma Bovary's head in Gustave Flaubert's famous novel of adultery; and, as Wolfgang Schivelbusch has shown, they were a powerful resource for the South during the American Civil War. In his seminal essay, 'Notes on Deconstructing "the Popular"', Stuart Hall argues that popular culture is popular fiction is always a battleground on which struggles for consent and resistance are played out. And it would seem that from the first, popular literature has played a part in everyday understandings of how the local relates to the global.

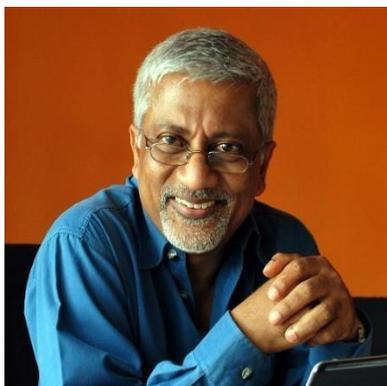
But is this still the case? What role do contemporary popular texts, which like *Outlander* often appear in multiple media, as fiction – as television series, as films, or as video games

– play in contemporary struggles between local, regional, national identities in the context of globalisation? Are they just the froth thrown up by the multinational companies, such as Sony, which produce them? Or can they tell us more about the current state of the world. These questions feel particularly pertinent in Britain this year, after the shock of Brexit, in which popular myths about the erosion of borders and nostalgia for past national glory played an important role; but such pressures are felt in almost all parts of the world. For some commentators indeed, such as Paul Mason, they are a sign that the neoliberal model of globalisation, which has been hegemonic since the 1990s is on the verge of collapse.

This paper will not venture such apocalyptic predictions, but will argue that Gabaldon's text signifies a fascinating transformation of earlier popular narratives into a tale for a global audience. In fact, there is far more that is international than national about *Outlander*. Gabaldon is an American, with a mixed but non-Scottish heritage, and she had not even visited Scotland when she wrote the novel. Sony is a multinational company whose origins are Japanese, but which now brings an almost inconceivable degree of wealth and cultural power to bear on a global market. In this respect, one might say that the coincidence between the timing of the series airing in Britain and the Scottish referendum was mere happenstance; and perhaps it was. But following Stuart Hall, I want suggest another reading: one that traces the history of Scotland's symbolic role as rebel nation for multiple international audiences into the present. *Outlander* is a text that bears further analysis because it follows a tradition of popular literature from Walter Scott to the present day that conjures up an imaginary Scotland as a nation caught between the modern and the pre-modern, and in so far as its main point of reference is the Highlands, represents Scottishness as an example of a culture defeated by modernity. In it, Scotland acts not so much as an historical, but as an imaginary lost place, a scene of fantasy wherein the contradictions of the present can be worked through. Such scenes of fantasy are more than froth. They are vital to how we come to terms with a world in transformation. Subjecting narratives such as *Outlander* (and the embarrassing emails between the executives of multinational corporations to which they give rise) to critical analysis can play an important role in creating the condition for empowerment, when what seems on offer is precisely the opposite.

SYNOPSIS OF CHIEF GUEST'S ADDRESS

Taking high-quality research to policy



Professor Rohan Samarajiva
Founding Chair of LIRNEasia

Preoccupation with abstract concepts and with teaching make faculty members in conventional universities less-than-perfect generators and disseminators of policy-relevant knowledge. Additional problems afflict developing-country universities, making their faculty members less productive with regard to policy-relevant research.

Even in well-resourced universities in developed countries, not all faculty members take research to policy. The chances of good research being done and the findings being communicated in ways that will effectively inform policy processes are lower in universities in the developing countries. That does not suggest that scholars should withdraw from policy engagement. Instead of trying to force-fit all university-based scholars into one mold, thought should be given to mechanisms that would support the subset of policy-oriented scholars to do high-quality research and communicate relevant findings when policy windows open up. Similarly, others who are motivated to engage in basic research and high-quality teaching should be supported to pursue their passions. In the same way that a winning cricket team is made up of different kinds of bowlers and batsmen and fielders, each excellent in his/her discipline, an ideal university department or faculty will accommodate a range of diverse scholars, each excellent in her/his chosen modality.

The challenge, of course, is how to combine diversity along with incentives for high-quality outputs. Even in the United States, where market-based salaries are the norm and decision making has been substantially devolved to academic units, the challenge has not been fully met. Creative efforts are needed to ensure useful contributions to policy from university faculty in our conditions.

Symposium on Media and Society: Concerted Thinking and Collaborative Work

It is the common currency that media – be it international or local; printed or digital, for instance – plays an outstanding role in creating and shaping public opinions, and strengthening societies. While supporting individual and social empowerment, however, media also negatively affects the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual stand of people. Given these cultural, socio-political dimensions, in the recent years, a greater awareness has been created in the field of research, of the relevance of media, its presence in the public agenda and its impact on society. Yet, what we lack is concerted thinking and collaborative dialogues on media – a strong nexus involving academics, media personnel, professionals and the public for the empowerment of our society. The objective of this symposium is to enhance the awareness of the influences of media on society – be they positive or negative – and to find ways and means to reduce people's susceptibility to media, and to increase their critical perception about it. The symposium brings together everyone concerned on the same platform and in the same audience, and constructs a critical space *on* media, *for* media *with* media and academia.

Speakers



Mr. Wijayananda Jayaweera
Former Director,
UNESCO International
Programme of Development
Communication



Mr. Amal Jayasinghe
Sri Lanka Bureau Chief of
Agency France-Presse
(AFP)



Dr. Mahim Mendis
Senior Lecturer,
The Open University of
Sri Lanka



Mr. Asoka Dias
Director Station,
MTV Channel (Pvt) Ltd.

CONFERENCE TRACKS

Aesthetic and Performance Studies

Communication and Media Studies

Criminology and Criminal Justice

Economics and Finance

Education and Development

Geography and Environmental Science

Health and Social Care

History and Archaeology

Linguistics and Language Studies

Literary and Cultural Studies

Philosophy and Ethics

Political Science and Public Policy

Theology and Religious Studies

Women's and Gender Studies

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ABSTRACTS

PAPER PRESENTATION

Aesthetic and Performance Studies

The terrorist film: Bombay cinema and the transnationalization of terror

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Bombay cinema's engagement with terrorism of post 9/11 exacerbates a set of already-present problematics that pertain to the relation between the Indian nationstate and its minority communities, specifically, Muslims. One central problematic that has been accentuated is the principle of exclusion that is already foundational to mainstream political articulations of communities and nation-states. This discursive tendency continues to characterise the narrations of community and nation within cinema as well. Therefore, there are a set of overlapping and reinforcing narratives of the nation – cinematic and political – that are routinely available in the public domain. These discourses and narratives of the nation and community, moreover, tend to be fundamentally gendered and sexualised. Both the nation (state) and its citizen-subject are normally rendered in deeply gendered and sexualised terms: a tendency that is only aggravated in the 'terrorist' films. These narratives, far from being confined to the immediate domain of the Indian nation-state, have traditionally been screened across the globe. The recent exponential expansion of Hindi cinema's global and diasporic market, alongside the technological convergence that now characterises media industries, has led to idiomatic changes, radical structural changes within the industry, an intensified integration of this industry into the production and consumption systems of the global north/the west and a 'transnationalization' of this cinema's deeply gendered discourses of terrorism. This is not a process of simple 'exportation', but rather one which engages dynamically with the discursive flows about terrorism, Islam and the nation-state that circulate within that globalized space. Using a combination of feminist political economy and discourse analysis, the paper will undertake an exploration of 'terrorist' films like *Aamir* (2008), *New York* (2009), *Mumbai Meri Jaan* (2008) and *Vishwaroopam* (2013). It will discuss the complexity of issues and phenomena set out above, and analyse the cinematic deployment of the globalised cityscape as nation-space.

Keywords: *Bombay cinema, Nation-state, Terrorism, Gender, Technological convergence*

Social relevance of Sri Lankan ritual music: How “âyubôvâ” causes welfare

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This paper examines the social relevance of the well-known blessing chant “âyubôvâ” in Sinhala healing rituals, which has seemingly yielded the Sri Lankan traditional greeting “âyubôvan”, meaning (you) may live long. In the context of healing rituals, the chant âyubôvâ also conveys the sense of long life. Therefore, the âyubôvâ blessing chant innately possesses a human beneficial state. The paper uses three dimensions that are very applicable in assuring the social relevance of âyubôvâ namely matrix, utility, and human values. The matrix of âyubôvâ blessing chant has a healing ritualistic milieu and consequently its utility claims a therapeutic state. Moreover, blessing a long life encourages a peaceful mind causing important basic human values while not supporting low ranked human values that may cause social adversity. This paper draws on primary and secondary sources, including fieldwork data and audio and text publications. It employs the Schwartz Theory in comprehending human values in the scope. Primary sources, which are specifically some audiovisual chanting examples of âyubôvâ, collected in field work support to perceive the utility of the âyubôvâ chant comprising chanting nature, chanting environment, and the community interaction. Moreover, the paper uses audio examples of *Hari Ôm* in comparing the pronunciation and chanting method between âyubôvâ and *Hari Ôm*. Relevant texts including historical and literary treatises are referred to collect data related to the matrix and human values. In contemplating the phonetic evolution, and the socio-cultural background related to the Vedic rituals in ancient Sri Lanka, it is clear that one of Sri Lankan traditional expressions “âibôṃ” denotes the inceptive form of âyubôvâ and the paper claims the âibôṃ as a term sprung from “*Hari Ôm*”, the supreme healing mantra of Hindus. In comparing with the modern global practice of *Hari Ôm*, the paper identifies that the âyubôvâ blessing chant supports enhancements of mental well-being reinforcing social welfare. Furthermore, the paper recognises that the most important basic human values activated in the context of âyubôvâ promote valuable social dimensions: selftranscendence and conservation. The paper determines that the overall process of âyubôvâ blessing chant is potent to promote social well-being conveying happiness, the sense of good health and prosperity.

Keywords: *Ritual music, âyubôvâ, Hari Ôm, Welfare, Human values*

Shakespeare on silver screen: Breaking the barriers

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Shakespeare is a playwright and dramatist who has explored and experimented emotions of human life in 38 plays and 154 sonnets. A universal genius, he is beyond *desh* (geography), *kaal* (time) and *kul* (class). Critics equate him with writers like Valmiki, Vyas and Homer. In existing literature, he is considered one of the leading followers of the Aristotelian concept of tragedy. Shakespeare, today, after 400 years too, is in our libraries, curriculum, on stage and silver screen. In all the film industries, the film-makers have used the Shakespearean plots in varieties. In India, after Valmiki and Vyas, he is the one who has been explored, experimented and exploited to the maximum by the silver screen. This paper is an effort to explore and critically analyse the film adaptations of the Shakespearean tragedies in general and the three Indian films namely, *Maqbul* (Macbeth), *Omkara* (Othello) and *Haider* (Hamlet) in detail, in comparison to Shakespearean tragedies and to socio-cultural and political aspects of Indian society. It shall be an exercise examining the liberties taken by the film-makers.

Keywords: *Shakespeare, Tragedy, Silver screen*

The influence of Hindusthani classical music on Rabindra Sangit

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The objective of this research was to find out whether Hindusthani music has influenced Rabindra Sangit and to study the impact of Ragas and Raginis, singing styles, the use of Taalas, and the use of musical instruments of Hindusthani classical music on Rabindra Sangit. This research was based on an examination of related books, articles, recordings of Hindusthani classical music and Rabindra Sangit. Rabindranath Tagore was a poet, a music composer and a singer. From his childhood he used to compose songs and fixed tunes. In 1901, Rabindranath Tagore founded Brahmacharyasram in Santiniketan. This school was open to nature and the students of the school enjoyed nature during their education. Tagore, after writing many songs on various themes, composed music for those songs and taught them to the students of his school. During every function, every season and in leisure time students and teachers of the asram used to sing those songs and enjoy them. In early days those songs were known as 'Rabi Babur Gaan'. After a few decades, songs were named as 'Rabi Thakurer Gaan'. Today, they are known as a great tradition of music called Rabindra Sangit. On the other hand, Hindusthani classical music is one of the most prominent music traditions of India. This tradition is based on Ragas and Raginis. The most famous singing styles in this tradition are Drupad, Dhamar, Khyal, Thumri, Tarana, Tappa. The data revealed that Rabindranath Tagore grew up in a musical atmosphere. In his Jorasanko family house, he had the opportunity to listen to Hindusthani music. Also, he was fortunate to learn Hindusthani music under the guidance of the musicians such as Vishnu Chackraborty, Jadu Bhatt, Shrikant Singha, Radhika Goswamy, Shyam Sundhar Mishra and Ramprasad Mishra. Therefore, it can be concluded that Tagore was influenced by the above Hindusthani singing styles, Ragas and Raginies and Hindusthani Taalas to create his Rabindra Sangit. Many songs of Rabindra Sangit, have been influenced to a great extent by Hindusthani classical music.

Keywords: *Hindusthani classical music, Rabindra Sangit, Ragas, Raginis, Hindusthani singing styles*

Generating interference: The development of techno supernatural sounds in contemporary Japanese horror films

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The impact on the international film market over the last decade following the rise in popularity of Japanese horror films is a significant trend that has been recorded by numerous scholars. Since the release of Hideo Nakata's 1998 urban ghost film *Ringu*, a number of films have followed adopting a similar genre trend depicting specific cultural and ideological conceptions of the supernatural that have inspired a number of remakes worldwide. Fascination with the films' culturally-driven aesthetic approaches to ghosts and spirits has provided a wealth of interpretations as to how Japanese cinematic cultural perceptions of the supernatural are explored through image and sound. In the digital age, these interpretations have evolved, pushing the boundaries of the supernatural into cinematic explorations of technophobia, social struggle and viral outbreaks, as well as the distortion of biological/mechanic distinction. In his 2010 paper titled *The Technologies of Isolation: Apocalypse and Self in Kurosawa Kiyoshi's 'Kairo'*, Steve Jones notes that in the film 'the human self is not the only subject of infection here: the film form too suffers from Internet dial-up interference sound effects'. Jones makes an introductory case out of the unsettling nature of *Kairo's* score, but it is only really a glimpse into the relevance of how sound contributes towards a definition of the supernatural in the film. It is proposed that by analysing the use of sound effects and music in *Kairo*, we can gain a greater understanding of the culturally specific representations of the supernatural portrayed in the contemporary digital landscape that also work to reconfigure and empower definitions of Japanese cinematic horror.

Keywords: *Japanese horror film, Supernatural, Film music, Sound effects, Kurosawa Kiyoshi*

Legends of ancient Īshvara (Shiva) temples in Sri Lanka

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There is a very long history of the beliefs and the rituals on one of the main gods in Hinduism, known as Shiva (otherwise known as Īshvara) among Sri Lankan Buddhist and Hindu devotees. It is believed that even during the pre-historic age, before all the other religious beliefs came into being, Shaivism was present in Sri Lanka. This assumption is based upon legends and historical notes depicting some ancient Hindu temples, which are worshipped even today by the devotees of Īshvara. There are mainly five Shiva temples called Five Great Īshvarams in Sri Lanka. They are based on age-old legends and myths. Those Five Great Īshvarams are Kōneshvaram temple in the Trincomalee district, Munneshvaram temple in the Puttalam district, Thiruketheeshvaram temple in the Mannar district, Keeramalai Naguleshvaram temple in the Northern province and Santhirasegaram (Thondesvaram) temple in the Southern province. Apart from them, Manaveriya Rama Lingeshvara devalaya in Manaveriya grama in the Puttalam district and Mamankeshvaram devalaya in the Batticaloa district provide very important information about Īshvara worshipping.

The objective of this research paper is to identify the role played by folklore associated with the above historical Shiva temples on the establishment of faith in Īshvara as a means of worship. The primary and secondary data for this study was collected through both local and Indian literature and field work. The use of mass consciousness of a society is more important than the literature in the identification of folklore of religious believes. Field work, observation and interviews (informal interviews) with Hindu priests and devotees helped in identifying myths and it helped to reconfirm the data collected via literature.

The folklore related to these five great Īshvara temples are thoroughly believed by the devotees. Most of the legends had originated in the pre historical ages. The legend of "Rama and Ravana" is a good example of that. These temples have become highly venerated Hindu temples in Sri Lanka because of the legends associated with them. As far as religious faith is concerned, folklore and legends cannot be completely ignored as they express the consciousness of our ancestors and present day devotees who have a strong religious faith. The analysis of data in this research revealed that the legends of five Īshvara temples mentioned above are informative in establishing and glorifying Īshvara culture in the Sri Lankan society.

Keywords: *Īshvara temples, Shiva, Legends, Beliefs, Folklore*

Communication and Media Studies

Locating the Sri Lankan media in a post-colonial context: A comparative study of the media systems of Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom and Uganda

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The media of Sri Lanka is a unique product of historical development in a postcolonial context following the fall of the British Empire. It has inherited from the British an ideal of media as an independent watchdog performing a public service by monitoring the government. However, in reality, Sri Lankan media generally follow a combination of the Authoritarian and Social Responsibility Models of the press. In an effort to place the Sri Lankan media in an appropriate theoretical position for future studies, this comparative study compares the print media of Sri Lanka, both state-owned and private, with the print media of another former British colony and developing nation, Uganda. This will involve comparisons of the relative sizes of state-owned and private media houses and their impacts, comparative content analysis to determine the extent and tone of coverage given to various issues and governmental regulations and actions in relation to press content. In Uganda and Sri Lanka, private newspapers give higher quality financial and economic news than their government counterparts, emphasizing a nuts and bolts approach for investors and businessmen, while state coverage was more concerned with small-scale operations and micro-economic matters. Another distinct difference between state-owned newspapers and private newspapers is the former dealing more with what the government is doing and the latter with what the government ought to be doing. In spite of this plurality of views, media freedom in Sri Lanka and Uganda is often considered to be threatened by financial interests, when in fact it appears that financial newspapers produce the highest standard content. Instead, it is governmental influence that trumps corporate influence in the print media in spite of there being very little overt interference or censorship. Instead, due to the systemic failures of governmental structures to limit the power of individual politicians, coverage is determined by indexing. Even private corporations tend to follow the politicians' lead in determining what is important and should be covered. These phenomena are often unfairly seized upon by western societies to criticize the lack of press freedom in post-colonial societies, but this ignores the systemic realities on the ground. While an idealized version of the role of media in democratic societies is often put forth by international actors, the reality is that even in the western world, media is subject to larger social forces, including desire for profitability, corporate and political influence and indexing. An evaluation of the functions of media of Sri Lanka and other post-colonial societies should be undertaken, not to determine the extent to which media in these societies serve an idealized conception of the "common good", but their actual place in the larger sociopolitical structure of the nation.

Keywords: *Media studies, Communications, Press Theory, Post-colonialism, Sri Lanka*

Linguistic armory: Impact of FM language on the audience

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The national media policy of Sri Lanka upholds the practice of observing conventions in the use of language on mass communication media. However, a deliberate and dense use of code-mixing began to be used in the Sinhala-medium public discourse of the mid-1990s with the inception of private Frequency Modulation (FM) radio stations in Sri Lanka. Through general understanding, it could be claimed that this FM media language takes the form of excessive insertions of lexical items and phrases from the English language in a non-assimilated fashion, within a Sinhala matrix. The research study examines, from a social-psychological perspective, the extent of the influence of such media linguistic behaviour on the youth audiences of those FM media. The Social Cognitive Theory (Bandura, 2001), which discusses the impact of modelled media behaviour on media audiences, has been used to provide a base for this qualitative exploration. The sample for the study consisted of 299 respondents between 18-22 years of age, selected from the areas of Colombo, Galle and Kandy. The selection was made initially on the basis of their tendency to listen to one or more of the popular commercial FM radio channels.

The matched-guise attitude tests were used as a research instrument to find the respondents' perceptions of the languages concerned with the study, including codemixed speech. Focus group interviews were used to substantiate the findings from the attitude tests. The main qualitative analytical tool employed took the form of summaries of thematic analyses. The findings disclose that the respondent sample of FM radio audiences imitate the speech patterns set by FM radio as a compensatory strategy for their lack of proficiency in English, and thereby to gain what they perceive as social recognition and status. In its conclusion, the paper makes the implication that the proliferation of FM-style code-mixing could be read as having a catalyst effect on the change which the informal, spoken, urban Sinhala is currently undergoing. It makes the claim that this process is likely to enhance itself if the numerical strength of those adopting the emergent FM style code-mixing increases.

Keywords: Code-mixing, FM media, Social Cognitive Theory

Requirement of a media and a social networking policy for Sri Lanka for a successful foreign policy

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Countries around the world have understood the importance of media policies specific and appropriate to each country. With the advent of the digital age, these media policies have come to encapsulate the digital sphere as well. Governments and citizens alike seek instant information of a country through its presence online. In this context, Sri Lanka too may need to ensure its presence online, and in-line with the government policies. The objective of this research was to explore if Sri Lanka needs a social networking policy that guarantees the face it presents to the world as indicative of its long-term foreign policy intentions. The research utilised primary data such as policy documents and interviews along with secondary data such as government press releases and communiqués, newspaper articles and speeches, social networking sites of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and government websites especially that of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It also investigated the Social Media Policy of the United States of America. The analysis showed that the Sri Lankan government does not monitor news items, which leads to tarnish its image. It revealed that Sri Lankan government policy makers do not maintain a singular voice in its communications, which results in third parties making statements regarding the country. The analysis also disclosed that certain individuals have made statements which are personal in nature regarding the country such as incidents pertaining to Sri Lanka's National Security and its policies, thus has projected the government in a manner harmful to the country's image. This study confirms that Sri Lanka is in an urgent need of an overarching policy that will safeguard the image of the country in the eyes of the foreign media and public. This paper argues that Sri Lanka can benefit from such policies and even learn from them; this is extremely imperative, and a mechanism in this regard is timely because in this modern age, news regarding an incident is communicated swiftly. Further, it is equally imperative for government representatives to be included in the policy making. This paper also argues that although maintaining and monitoring all avenues of communication is difficult, it is not impossible. While commenting on the importance of a singular approach to messaging and consistency in its voice, this paper recommends a Social Networking Policy, which is relevant to Sri Lanka's foreign policy, which can be implemented via Strategic Communication that will assist to safeguard its national interest and image.

Using male and female generic terms in communication: With special reference to contemporary Sinhala language

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According to the Oxford Dictionary (2007), “communication is the act of conveying intended meaning to another entity through the use of mutually understood signs and semiotic rules”. That means the receiver must perceive the same message intended by the sender. It seems that there are ambiguities when communicating using male and female generic terms, which are used in the contemporary Sinhala language. For instance, the term “ganikaava” is used to represent both male and female prostitutes. At the same time, though there are both male and female labourers, the term “kamkaruwa” is used to represent both sexes.

The main objective of this paper is to identify whether there can be miscommunication when using male and female generic terms in the contemporary Sinhala language. The mix method was employed in this research; two structured questionnaires and interviews were administered. The questionnaire - I consisted of 3 parts. Part I was allocated for collecting basic biographical information of the participants. Part 2 of the questionnaire aimed at finding how male and female generic terms are perceived when they are used in different syntactic contexts while part 3 aimed at testing how those terms are perceived when they are used as single words. In questionnaire 2, the participants were asked to draw some sketches on given topics/ words. A random sample of 60 male and female undergraduates who are studying in the first year, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo were selected as the population of the research. The respondents for the research were determined on the basis of their sex. Accordingly, 30 males and 30 females were selected. Results show that there are ambiguities when communication takes place using generic terms in the contemporary Sinhala language and it can be identified as an instance of miscommunication. As this research is related to unsolved issues of the contemporary Sinhala language use, this will contribute to generate new knowledge in the field of communication studies.

University students and homosexuality: A research carried out in association with new media

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Human sexuality is a complex process that surpasses mere physical features. While it represents an individual's gender and behaviour in different aspects, expressing it and experiencing it could happen in many ways. There is a long history behind human sexuality as well as homosexuality. They are traced back to Greek and Roman civilizations and experts have provided different interpretations on them. Homosexuality is a situation where a man or woman is sexually attracted to another individual of the same sex. When analysed psychologically, homosexuality is a perfectly normal condition. It is not a disease. Today both international classifications on diseases (ICD and DSM) have removed homosexuality from the list of diseases. As experts explain, homosexuality, similar to heterosexuality, is merely a sexual orientation. Being considered as normal in European countries, this has also invaded Asian regions at present. Sri Lanka can be considered as an outstanding country among them. Though oriental cultures reject homosexuality, the internal desires and reactions of a human being cannot be controlled. It is a common criterion for the Sri Lankan society as well. Homosexuality cannot be identified superficially. This is because homosexuals develop their homosexual relationships while safeguarding their secrecy. They have chosen the new media for this purpose, especially, Facebook. The objective of this research was to find out the tendency for homosexuality among the students of Sri Lankan universities who enter the faculty of Arts, and their attitudes towards this subject. Universities of Colombo, Sabaragamuwa and Peradeniya were chosen for the research, and participatory monitoring, interviews and questionnaires were used to collect relevant information. A majority of university students who were inclined towards homosexuality and students who were not inclined towards homosexuality alike bear the idea that homosexuality is an ordinary sexual orientation and that one should not adopt an unnecessary fear in this regard. They emphasize the fact that in a globalized world, sexuality has become an open concept of which homosexuality is an offshoot, and it should not be a problem to the society. Even though most of them said that an open dialogue about this matter should take place in the present society and that some justice should be dispensed for the rights of the people involved in homosexuality, they rejected the idea of homosexual marriages. The main characteristic observed in the research process is that the university students are tired of the existing educational system and life style, and that they turn towards homosexual relationships to obtain some relief of this stressful lifestyle and also to obtain some sexual experience prior to marriage.

Keywords: *University student, Facebook, New media, Homosexuality*

Activism, performance, and social change: Facebook as catharsis

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This paper investigates the correlation between Facebook activism, political participation, and actual capacity for social change in contemporary society. Aristotle has posited in *The Poetics* that the ultimate goal of tragedy is to enable catharsis, a phenomenon that Marxists have argued prevents political action, hence maintains the status quo in power placement as well as social stratification. Two major events in the Nigerian history, the Annulment of June 12th 1992 Presidential Elections, and the Postponement of March 24th 2015 Presidential Elections, are analysed, and the activisms they spurred are viewed as performance based on Richard Schechner's Performance Theory. By analysing the two approaches to mass mobilisation and action at these different periods of Nigerian history, direct activism towards the close of the 20th Century and online activism in the beginning of the 21st Century, the study argues that contrary to popular belief, the reality is that while social media broadens citizens' political awareness and allows freer speech, it however prevents direct action against power holders by providing an instant non-real avenue for catharsis that in fact changes nothing.

Keywords: *Activism, Social change, Facebook, Political participation, Catharsis*

Socializing on social media: A case study of urban female undergraduates

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The current undergraduates are all digital natives (born since 1991) who have grown up with digital technologies and Web 2.0 (the second stage of development of the Internet, characterized especially by the rapid development of social media) and have unassumingly integrated the usage of social media into their daily lives. As a segment of society, the highest percentage of Social Media Networking Sites' (SMNS) users are college students, especially urban female undergraduates, and hence it is imperative to understand the patterns of their usage, before attempts can be made to incorporate SMNS into the educational/learning processes or using the sites for collaborative construction of knowledge. Hence, a research study was undertaken by this author to purview the usage of SMNS among urban female undergraduates, to discern the devices used for access, their membership on various sites, the purposes these sites are used for, the creation and management of selfidentity, the amount of time spent on networking, the effects of this inherently solitary activity of networking on their social life, familial bonding, privacy and emotional health; as well as their usage for educational purposes, awareness of cybercrimes and safe navigation, and finally the feasibility of adoption of SMNS in educational methodologies of Higher Educational Institutions. The study entails a quantitative method of research: a survey using a purposive sampling technique on a cluster sample of 100 urban, female undergraduate volunteers in the age group of 18-22 years in the city of Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India. It was a live, paper version of pre-validated and reliable questionnaire consisting of 30 questions in 3 sections with closed ended questions, multiple-choice questions and questions eliciting responses on a Likert Scale. The data thus collected was analysed using SPSS-Statistics 13.0 software and the results presented in multi-coloured bar charts, cluster bar charts, cross tabulation tables and Chi- Square tests with Probability values. The empirical results are summarized in a multi-layered fashion and crosschecked for patterns. The paper discusses how they correlate or negate to the literature reviewed for this study and highlights the patterns that are of significance to undergraduates in India. The respondents believe, regardless of the attitude of their parents and teachers to their social media networking habits, that the SMNS are here to stay and that in the long haul the advantages will nullify the disadvantages. The study also reveals that although the usage of cell phones is presently banned on the college premises, they will surely be used in classrooms in the future, for educational purposes. The limitations of the study are noted along with the author's suggestions and recommendations.

Keywords: *Social media, Undergraduates, Networking, Access, Identity*

Criminology and Criminal Justice

Illegal disposal of waste in Sri Lanka: The effectiveness of public nuisance cases as a preventive mechanism

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In Sri Lanka, major disposal methods of waste are open-dumping practiced by Local Governments and incineration practiced by citizens. These practices can be defined as unethical considering their harm to the ecological capital. They are also illegal since those practices create public nuisance. There are less than five sanitary land fillings in the whole country. Other non-regular dumping sites have not obtained Environmental Protection Licenses, contrary to the Section 23Z of the National Environment Act No. 47 of 1980. This move regarding the credibility of the actual legal system is stealthily questioned by citizens. Under these circumstances, one of the valid instruments against non-regular dumping of waste in citizens' neighbourhoods is to request the local magistrate issuance of conditional order, according to the Section 98 of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act No. 15 of 1979, for the removal of nuisance created by waste dumping. In public nuisance cases against Local Governments filed by citizens for non-regular disposal of waste, the rule '*ab inconvenienti*' seems to relate to the fear of urban catastrophe as a consequence of not allowing waste collected to be dumped somewhere. In fact, this reasoning is contrary to the explicit expression in S. 261 of our Penal Code. The aim of the study is to explore this phenomenon of different approaches taken in different cases by the same hierarchy of the courts in Sri Lanka filed by citizens versus citizens and citizens versus Local Governments. In order to achieve that aim, this study followed the "Archival Research Methodology" to investigate decided cases, administrative records, journal articles and so on. The efficiency of the legal framework considered depends on judicial values: legitimacy, authority, neutrality and uniformity that underpin the rule of the law. Results of the investigation reveal differences between two types of cases, differentiating further, the type of nuisance, in judicial time and final results. Under the democratic rules, the inherent discretion power of the court should be limited to the interpretation of the intent of legislature, and not to make new rules by interpreting the rule '*ab inconvenienti*'. On these findings, it can be concluded that public nuisance litigations as antidumping instruments to prevent non-regular dumping by Local Governments are not effective in the Sri Lankan context, but important instruments to pressurize Local Governments under the actual legal framework by grabbing the attention of media, public opinion and so on. This paper, thus, promotes the importance of having a national dialogue concerning the responsibility of the existing legal framework in urgent environmental issues through contemporary legal reforms. This is also expected to help achieve a standardised Solid Waste Management Practices.

Keywords: *Solid waste management, Local governments, Public nuisance, Abusive*

A study on the reasons for female criminality

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Female criminality is one of the most important phenomena in Social Sciences. The changing nature of females' roles and characteristics in the capitalist system promotes more female involvement in various crimes. Furthermore, gender plays an integral role in this cultural conditioning, which contributes in many ways to the phenomenon of female criminality in the modern Sri Lankan society. With that consideration, this research was conducted to identify the main reasons underlying female criminality in Sri Lanka. A random sample of 150 incarcerated women in the Welikada Prison was selected. The data were collected using in-depth interviews and questionnaires. The major findings of this study indicated that 97% of the women were married, and the others were unmarried. Their major offences were acts related to drugs. In addition, there were 108 women whose husbands were also guilty of various crimes. As the results further reviewed, the majority of women were offenders due to their husbands' illicit activities such as the consumption and trade of drugs, sexual impropriety and other deviant behaviors. Most of the women had to face this kind of situation because of various cultural factors related to masculine values affecting them in several ways. In order to resolve this problem, the Sri Lankan society should be shaped in relevant ways so that that it will increase the awareness of the young generation as required in the modern social context.

Keywords: *Female Criminality, Culture, Gender, Deviant behaviors, Incarcerated women*

A study on the relationship between sub-cultural factors and criminality:
A case study

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The estate Tamil community migrated to Sri Lanka from India in the 19th century as labourers in rubber, coffee and tea plantation fields. Some also migrated as merchants and as other service providers. At present, the majority of them are working as plantation labourers in Central, Uva, Sabaragamuwa and Southern provinces with their own sub-culture. The primary objective of this study was to explore and explain the particular relationship between sub-cultural factors and the criminality in the estate sub-culture. A sample of 80 estate Tamil families out of 120 was selected through random sampling from Deniyaya and Handford estates, Matara district in the Southern province. For more information, in-depth interviews and police records were used. Data was analysed using the SPSS software. This study identified a special living style among estate Tamil communities, which depends on their routine activities. Murders, tumults, abduction and robberies were identified as the most common crimes among the estate Tamil people. The conclusion is that most of those crimes were directly related to the sub-cultural factor called "short term delightment". The usage of illegal drugs, hardworking lifestyle, limited consumption of holdings and lack of education were identified as ancillary factors of "short term delightment" which have led to the increased rate of crimes among them. Establishing a new mediation board for estate workers, development of the infrastructures, and inspiration for the education can be recommended to control and prevent crimes among the estate Tamil community.

Keywords: *Crimes, Estate Tamils, Routine activities, Short-term delightment*

Crime trends and patterns in the post war environment in Sri Lanka

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The criminologists who have studied crimes in the west are of the view that the high rate of property crimes results from urbanization and industrialization processes in the 19th and 20th centuries, which have given rise to economically and socially disadvantaged groups. In the process of development, since the 1970s, Sri Lanka has shown the development of criminality in the context of the social structure transformation within the liberal market policy.

This study explores trends and patterns of criminality in the post war environment. The methodology used in the study is heavily drawn from criminological approaches to research, and theoretically driven by the theories of social structure, social disorganization, strain, and cultural deviance. The study method is mainly based on the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) and self-reported surveys. In addition, case studies and histories were included from selected prisons in the Kandy district.

The analysis of the social context of crimes during the post war period reveals that the crime rate of the educated people is higher than that of the less educated people. The gender gap between male and female prisoners ratio is 97:3. Crimes related to illegal drugs are higher in minority ethnic groups (Muslims, Malay, and Burger) than in the majority (Sinhalese and Tamils). In terms of religions, Hindu and Islamic people are involved in higher rates of crimes than Buddhists. However, a higher rate of the persons sentenced to death are Buddhists than Muslims and Hindus. The average convicted prisoners per year is 30,000 from 2009 to 2013 and 50% of them are 28.6% reconvicted and 21.2% recidivists.

The study shows that grave crimes have declined and sexual crimes have sharply increased over the post war period. The homicide rate has declined from 9.04 in 1991 to 3.47 in 2011, while rape increased from 2.18 to 9.18 per 100,000 populations during this period. The rate of raping incidents in India, which is 1.6, is much less compared to that of Sri Lanka. Thus, the study shows that women and children, the most vulnerable groups, have been victims of these crimes.

The factors contributed to the new developments in crime rates and their patterns include the civil war, changes in political culture, media, and the introduction of new technology. The legal system and its loopholes, postponement of trials, loss of trust in the legal system, the gap between the rich and the poor, urbanization and the development of a poor urban class, less certainty and severity of punishment are seen as background factors contributing to increase the rates of crimes and their new patterns in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Crimes, Crime patterns, Civil war, Social structure*

Death and cure: An analysis of death sentence in Sri Lanka

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Death sentence is a significant step in creating social stability and it is mostly used to punish the offender of the crime committed. The term death sentence comes under the punishment or punishment methods. Amarasinghe (1999) states that punishment alone governs all created beings, punishment alone protects them, punishment watches over them while they sleep, and the wise declare punishment (to be identical with) the law. In death sentence, there are different types of punishment methods, starting from imprisonment to capital punishment. Death sentence is currently considered as the capital punishment. Most countries in the West are already in the process of taking necessary steps to abolish death penalty from their penal laws. However, Sri Lankan penal law still allows death penalty. Given this, the author intends to analyse the legal status of the death sentence in the perspectives of sentencing theories in the criminal justice. Furthermore, the author will analyse the suitability of imposing death sentence in Sri Lanka while discussing the international standards regarding this issue in line with the domestic legal framework. The research was mainly based on the primary and secondary sources in law such as statutes, judicial decisions and journal articles. This study also considers the sentencing theories under the criminal justice. Consequently, it was revealed that the policy on death penalty needs to address why we punish, whom we punish and how we punish. In that scenario, imposing the death sentence can lead to a violation of human rights of the offenders. Also there will be no opportunity for the offender to rectify the offence.

Keywords: *Death sentence, Theories of punishment, Socio legal perspectives*

Economics and Finance

Optimal public debt level and size of the public sector: Evidence from developed and developing countries including South Asia

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A lot of countries, including those which are both developed and developing, have run into massive debts. Any country may run into debts especially at times of natural disasters, wars and sudden economic crisis. However, the majority of nations borrow money to perform their role of the state or government. Continuous borrowing accumulates into an unsustainable amount of debts. Therefore, the discussion on optimal or sustainable level of public debt needs to be broadened. Secondly, borrowing may pave the ways to an expanded public sector. To analyse the influence of public borrowing on growth and the public sector, this study postulates two models and examines graphically and econometrically the relationships between public debt and economic growth. The study also analyses the optimal level of public borrowing and its influence on the size of the public sector.

It also calculates the rate of country-wise required growth to repay each country's borrowing. Both graphical and econometric analyses in the study show a negative relationship between the income per capita and government debt levels in both developed and developing countries. That observation is further confirmed by the comparison of two pronged calculated required growth rates required for developed countries with actual growth rates of the same countries. Moreover, postulated models say something about debt threshold of a country. The first model explains the debt playability of a country and the second model explains the limitations of borrowing based on the size of the public sector. The second model also explains that the optimal debt level may depend mainly on the tax rate.

The study concludes that high levels of debt offer a target of high growth to developed countries and contributes to expand the public sector in both developed and developing countries. The debt threshold for developed economies depends on the playability of loans of those countries. In South Asia, for a proper debt management, countries need higher growth rates than they have acquired at present. Public debts in these countries show a positive relationship with growth and does not contribute to expand the public sector. Until about 2000, Sri Lanka was moving forward with a significant growth by decreasing its national debt levels and controlling the expansion of the public sector. However, in the second millennium, a higher amount of accumulated debt in Sri Lanka offers a higher target of growth and in that sense, Sri Lanka needs to decrease government borrowings as soon as possible.

Keywords: *Growth rate, Public debt, Public sector, Tax rate*

Religious principles as marketing strategies: Critical evaluation of their applications and impacts on financial institutions in South Eastern part of Sri Lanka

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Religion is defined as 'the belief in the existence of a supernatural power and in life after death' (Oxford Dictionary). The principles of religion in the consumption behaviour of buyers and marketers 'well-being has been studied by several scholars (Peterson and Roy, 1985; Hirschman, 1982; McMurry, 1978). The religious principles play a critical role as a strategy in marketing. The main aim of the study is to examine the applications and impacts of religious principles as marketing strategies in the financial institutions in the South Eastern part of Sri Lanka. In order to achieve this, ten financial institutions were selected from the South Eastern region. The data were collected through interviews with the managers and other experts who deal with financial institutions. The methodology adopted for this study is a case study research approach for which the data gathered was qualitative. Findings show that the principles of religion are used as marketing strategies by several financial institutions. Further, it reveals that the competition and industry framework have risen with several new opportunities, and challenges are emerging in the day-to-day business environment under the theme of religious principles. These are related with new types of accounts, customer base, and new entrants, changes in life style, new innovative product developments, new potential investment projects and so on. Further, this study shows that the new concept of principles of religion is a force to formulate the new strategies among the intense competition in the financial industry. It is clear that the competition has been high in this industry in the recent past. Therefore, this study reveals that most of the financial institutions apply religious principles as marketing strategies in different aspects in their products and it creates new paradigm challenges in the industry. Finally, this study informs decision makers and other policy makers in this field.

Keywords: *Religious principles, Financial institution, Opportunities, Challenges, Strategies*

The effect of corruption on economic growth and development: The case of Nigeria

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At present, one of the greatest threats to economic and political development in most nations, including Nigeria is corruption. It is one of the most important problems which Nigerians have to tackle and overcome, If they are to make any significant and sustainable progress in the 21st century. In Nigeria, the endowment of human and natural resources is immense, but their proper utilization for the overall welfare of the citizens has been problematic. The menace of corruption has affected the Nigerian economy in many ways: reducing foreign direct investment, increasing the level of poverty and crime and unemployment. Since 1996, when Nigeria first featured in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI), a research study has been carried out by the Transparency International (TI), a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), which assesses the level of corruption in countries around the world. Nigeria has always been languishing in the bottom of the ranking among countries evaluated and has been more than once ranked as the most corrupt country in the world. This study provides empirical analysis of the effect of corruption on economic growth and development of Nigeria using data from the period between 1996 and 2015. The data for the study were obtained from the Central Bank of Nigeria and the official website of Transparency International. Econometric tools of analysis are employed in the analysis. This includes the Augmented Dickey Fuller test (ADF), Ordinary Least Square techniques (OLS) and the granger causality test. Real Gross Domestic Product (RGDP) was taken as proxy for economic growth and Corruption Perception Index (CPI) as proxy for corruption. The results of the ADF unit root test reveal that all the variables are stationary at level. Results of the OLS show that there is a negative and significant relationship between corruption and economic growth. Also, Corruption Rank (CR) and Relative Corruption Ranking (RCR) of Nigeria among countries show an insignificant negative relationship with economic growth. In addition, the results of the granger causality reveal that there is one way causation between RGDP and corruption because corruption granger causes slow economic growth, but economic growth does not granger cause corruption. Generally, the findings show that corruption has a significant negative effect on economic growth and the development of Nigeria causing severe economic and political pressures. The study recommends strengthening of the existing anti-graft agencies, social transformation and infrastructural development, capital punishment for corrupt offences and societal re-orientation on dangers of corruption.

Keywords: *Corruption, Economic growth, Granger causality*

A study on the issues associated with household food security in Sri Lanka

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Food security is a concern with development; it can be defined as a situation that exists when all people, all the time have physical social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meet their dietary needs for an active and healthy life. According to the recent data estimates, although Sri Lanka's food security at the national level has improved significantly over the years, there is no convincing progress at the household level. Accordingly, it is important to study why such a situation exists. The objective of this study is to explore the issues that have affected food security at the household level. The research uses both qualitative and quantitative data. Secondary data are collected through the reports of the Department of Census and Statistics and International Food Policy Institution. According to the analysis, it is revealed that the main issue concerning food security is the access to food rather than the availability of food. While the food requirement continuously grows due to the population growth and income, the disparities in the income distribution have prevented access to food. There are also wide disparities in the household food consumption in different provinces. Since many people currently do not engage in agriculture related jobs, they will have to spend more on food. As a remedy for these issues, food security should be strengthened by increasing the diversification of economy, employment and income generating programmes. While strengthening the agricultural sector, effective safety nets should be established for those who are unable to obtain basic food requirements. Furthermore, the findings of the study underscore the need for developing a combination of the domestic food production and trade with short and medium term interventions to ensure the access to food.

Keywords: *Household, Food security, Access to food, Agricultural sector*

Factors affecting the usage of Internet Banking

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As a wave of new technology, the internet provides banks a substantial opportunity to expand their customers' attraction beyond traditional boundaries across national borders. Increased competitive pressures and the speed of technological changes lead to the rapid expansion of Internet Banking. Internet banking has emerged as the most crucial form of customer interaction, encompassing the structural changes required for banks to compete in the financial markets. The main objective of this study was to identify the factors affecting the unwillingness of Bank Account Holders (BAH) to use Internet Banking. The study was carried out by selecting a random sample of one hundred and fifty BAH representing both Internet Banking Users (IBU) and Non-Internet Banking Users (NIBU) of Sampath Bank, Hatton National Bank, People's Bank and Bank of Ceylon. The data were collected based on the interview-questionnaire method. A specific composite index construction methodology based on weights on multiple corresponding analysis was applied to measure the Level of People's Technological Knowledge (LPTK), the Level of Relationship with the Bank (LRB) and the Level of Information Technology Driven Banking Solutions Usage (LITDBSU). A T-test was used to compare the means for each of LPTK, LRB and LITDBSU between IBU and NIBU. Further, a Logistic Regression Model (LRM) was developed to identify the factors affecting the unwillingness of BAH for using Internet Banking. Both LPTK and LITDBSU of the BAH were negatively skewed respectively with median values of 55.89 and 54.54 while LRB of the BAH was positively skewed with a median value of 29.80. The means for each of LPTK, LRB and LITDBSU were not equal between IBU and NIBU and the means of IBU for each were higher than the means of NIBU. LRM suggested that the LTPK, LRB, LITDBSU and the age significantly affected the unwillingness of BAH for using Internet Banking. Accordingly, offering more services, strengthening the customer retentions, introducing an internet banking portal facility, organizing promotion campaigns, highlighting the necessity of developing IT infrastructure and enhancing the reliability of the security for using internet banking are identified as the recommendations of the study.

Keywords: *Internet Banking, Bank account holder, Technological knowledge*

Classification of stocks of the Colombo Stock Market

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The stock market (or Stock Exchange) is a market where securities such as shares, debentures and so on, issued by companies are traded. Companies, which use the mechanism of the stock market to raise debt or equity capital, commonly enter the stock market by issuing shares or debentures to the public. The Colombo Stock Market has 295 companies representing 20 business sectors as at 12th January 2016, with a Market Capitalization of Rs. 2788.46 Bn. The rapid development in the stock market during the past few years has attracted a large number of investors to the stock market as an alternative way of investment. The main problem faced by the stock market participants is the selection of a stable and profitable stock among the large number of stocks. The classification of stocks provides the decision support of stock selections for the dealer and guidance of investment decisions. Therefore, the main objective of this study is to cluster or classify the securities (or stocks) listed in the Colombo stock market based on the monthly closing prices of the securities. For this study, data was obtained from 155 securities (according to the availability of data) listed in the Colombo Stock Market for the period from 2001 to 2015, and as an advanced multivariate statistical technique, the Cluster Analysis technique was used to analyse the data. According to the analysis, 155 securities were classified into 8 homogeneous clusters or groups. The group-1 consists of 52 securities having the lowest share prices with the average of Rs: 18.97 and the group-2 consists of 20 securities having the next lowest share prices with the average of Rs: 38.48 and so on. The last two groups (group seven and eight) contain 8 securities having the highest share prices with the average of Rs: 368.70 and 494.66 respectively.

Keywords: *Stock market, Securities, Share prices, Homogeneous clusters*

Customer satisfaction on international direct dialing prepaid call cards market in Sri Lanka: A statistical analysis

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Satisfying customers is an essential element in staying in the business market in the global competition of the modern world. Hence, this is a key factor to the profitability of a successful business. Therefore, companies should obtain a better understanding of the importance of the customer satisfaction. International Direct Dialing (IDD) plays a major role in the telecommunication industry in Sri Lanka as various IDD services are available for the customers. Therefore, at present the prepaid IDD call card market is one of the most competitive areas in the telecommunication industry in Sri Lanka. This research mainly focused on identifying the association among demographic variables: gender, age group, marital status and employment status with customer satisfaction variables, including quality, perceived value, customer loyalty and customer support and also with overall customer satisfaction to identify the factors affecting the IDD prepaid call card market. The required data were collected using a structured questionnaire through the purposive random sampling method with a sample size of 222. To attain customer satisfaction, five different brands of prepaid IDD call cards were used. The chi-square analysis for 2-way categorical data confirmed that the customer satisfaction with IDD prepaid cards was not significantly influenced by demographic variables. Each of the individual customer satisfaction variables was positively correlated with overall customer satisfaction at five percent significant level. Furthermore, the study revealed that all four variables: perceived quality, perceived value, customer loyalty and customer support have a positive significant effect on the level of customer satisfaction. Further, the results of the factor analysis suggest that the six customer satisfaction variables can be explained by three common factors: Customer Loyalty, Value for Money and User Friendliness. The percentage of overall customer satisfaction of the IDD prepaid call cards is 93.2%, irrespective of any demographic variables.

Keywords: *Customer satisfaction, Factor analysis, International Direct Dialing, Prepaid call cards*

Determinants of the female labour force participation among educated women in Sri Lanka: A study conducted in the Gampaha district

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The Sri Lankan female population has achieved an excellent level of education compared to other developing countries. According to the Ministry of Education, among new admissions in government schools in 2014, 130,633 students were males and 126,656 students were females as a total. Further, approximately 60% of the university students are represented by females as per the information provided by the University Grant Commission in Sri Lanka. Despite equal opportunities for education for both men and women in Sri Lanka, research reveals that females leave the labour force significantly. As per the World Bank projections, the demographic transition that Sri Lanka experiences will diminish by 2017. With the country's transition from demographic bonus era to ageing population era, dependency ratios are expected to increase in the future; one out of every four is expected to be above 60 years of age. Also, the labour force of Sri Lanka is expected to start shrinking after 2026. But, the Sri Lankan female labour force participation has been only around 35% of the labour force. Hence, it is important to increase the female labour force participation. With this background, the study was conducted to identify the determinants of the labour force participation among educated women in Sri Lanka. The study used the qualitative approach and was restricted to the Gampaha district. 130 respondents were used, and they were selected by using a convenience sampling technique. A standardised questionnaire and unstructured interviews were used with a direct focus on the personal background, socio-economic profile, employment status and opinions of the respondents. The study carried out a descriptive analysis based on the primary data, and found out that the age, educational level of parents, financial soundness of the family, employability of the mother and mother in law, social status and the lower level of labour force participation among single women had a high correlation. The number of members in the family, occupation and the occupation sector of the husband, the educational level of the husband, and the family encouragement towards unemployment had a high correlation with the unemployment level of married or divorced educated women. The findings of this study highlight the importance of a better education and awareness about the importance of the female labour force participation. According to policy implications, the study mainly suggests to invest in skilltraining beyond secondary education, and encouraging women to have job-oriented technical and vocational skills through the vocational education system.

Keywords: *Female labour force participation, Educated women*

Application of supply chain management practices to public sector corporations towards organizational continuity: Evidence from Sri Lanka

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Sustainability as a construct is still debated and is yet to attain a consensus among researchers and practitioners. Sustainability in a supply chain is another dimension where few researches have been carried out in the Sri Lankan public sector. In order to narrow the study, the researcher focused on one dimension of sustainability that is the continuity of the organization. Sustainability is the integration of environmental, social, and economic criteria that allow an organization to achieve long-term economic viability; in a narrower sense, it is the continuity of the organization. The purpose of this paper is to examine the factors affecting the supply chain management principles and its application to public sector corporations.

When the researcher considered sustainability as the dependent variable and carried out the literature survey, the following six independent variables emerged. They are, namely, goal alignment to supply chain objectives, standardization, waste elimination, revenue generation knowledge in supply chain management practices, and the mind set of employees. Firstly, the researcher used qualitative techniques using in-depth interviews. Findings of the qualitative study were assessed using the quantitative paradigm with a sample of 37 permanent officers in 16 public sector corporations. A four-point Likert scale used to capture the respondents' feedback on the dimensions delineates from the sustainability literature. A four point Likert scale instead of a 5-point Likert scale was used in order to extract a specific response from the respondents. Literature review was conducted using *sustainability* and *green procurement*. Since the objective was to check the validity and reliability of the instrument, the search was limited to 26 references. The study validates the importance of applying supply chain management principles such as lean concepts. Very few studies have documented industry-specific sustainability practices in Sri Lanka and only a few studies have been conducted in relation to the lean supply chain. This was verified by the participants in in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. Furthermore, a standardised procedure was developed through the literature survey. Also, it was revealed during the interview process that the knowledge on the supply chain process is very important for the continuity as well as for goal alignment and standardisation. Furthermore, this argument was confirmed in the quantitative study. When these results were analysed using SPSS, the validity and reliability of data were confirmed. The research reconfirms the importance of having revenue generation projects and waste elimination projects for the continuity of any public sector corporation, especially corporations that depend on Treasury funds.

Keywords: *Sustainability, Lean supply chain, Goal alignment, Revenue generation*

Drivers of labour force participation among female undergraduates in Sri Lanka

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Despite the strong growth over the past decades, which was accompanied by higher labour force participation, lower unemployment rates, women's higher level of education and relatively unhindered access to the job market, the low female labour force participation has become a puzzle and a serious economic issue in Sri Lanka for several reasons. The demographic dividend of a large working age population, which is projected to be shrieked after 2026, urges optimizing the use of working age population. In this regard, female labour force which encompasses more than 50% of the population has been identified as crucial actors in achieving and sustaining any inclusive growth strategy. Women's social protection at the older age largely depends on current status of employment. Further, it is a cause for concern given the substantial cost in terms of public as well as private money and effort undertaken in order to obtain a university degree. Hence, the abstention from the labour market of a substantial proportion of female work force is a significant waste of valuable investment in human capital with serious implications for both society as a whole and the women themselves. Given this seriousness of the problem, effective policy interventions demand the understanding of the matters that constrain the active participation of female work force in the labour market productively. Therefore, this paper aims to investigate possible reasons of why women in the tertiary level education choose to be outside the labour force. Data were collected from a stratified random sample of 300 final year students in 2014 at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura using a structured questionnaire. Despite a comprehensive descriptive analysis, constructed binary dependent variable on labour force participation to suit the study objective was used in logistic regression, which is the main inferential statistical method in the study. It was found that the probability for undergraduate women to participate in the labour force was affected positively by the magnitude of their work experience and training, availability of household assistance, availability of suitable child care facilities, availability of flexible working hours, mothers education level, and negatively by parents' wealth status, monthly family income, husband's expected earnings and number of children. Regression coefficients on parents' expectations and the faculty appeared with the predicted positive sign were not statistically significant. Results should be replicated to minimize sampling frame limitations. This study suggests suitable policy interventions to facilitate women by providing trainings, quality child care facilities, a secure working environment with flexible working hours and enhancing part time job opportunities. Proactive private-sector leadership can also encourage women's participation by establishing company policies and practices that relieve constraints on women's time, by providing appropriate leave for maternity and childcare.

Keywords: *Labour force participation, Women, Undergraduates, Sri Lanka*

Impacts of the Corporate Social Responsibility on financial performance:

A case study

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Ever since the emergence of civilisation, social behaviour has been an integral part of human life and activities of mankind. The moral, cultural and social behaviour can help one comprehend the aspect of responsibility he has towards various things. The concept of 'Survival of the fittest' in the competitive business environment demands what is now popularly known as social responsibility. The last 50 years have witnessed a voluntary change in the world's business environment. This has necessitated businesses to realign their objectives and goals from the historical objective of profit or wealth maximization to social objectives. The old forgotten ideology of giving back to the society what it received from it has emerged from the concept of social responsibility. It is imperative that present day business cares for society and its needs; otherwise it will be difficult for them to grow. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) means social responsibility of the corporate sector, which also means the response of the corporate sector towards society. In other words, the term CSR is also defined as Corporate Conscience, Corporate Citizenship, and Social Performance, Sustainable Responsible Business or only Responsible Business. The objectives of the present study are to evaluate CSR as a new paradigm of corporate governance and to examine the impacts of CSR on financial performance of the Indian Tobacco Company Limited (ITC Ltd.). The study covered a period from 2006-07 to 2011-12. The present study was mainly based on secondary data. Various statistical tools were used to test the hypothesis and the relationship between CSR and financial performance and various ratios were used to evaluate the financial performance. The results of the present study show that there is a significant correlation between CSR index and the financial performance of ITC Ltd. during the study period. Because of CSR activities, profitability of ITC Ltd. increased during the study period. Thus, it can be concluded that there is a positive impact of CSR on the financial performance.

Keywords: *CSR, Corporate Governance, Sustainability, Financial performance*

Energy poverty, energy services and empowerment opportunities

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Billions of people, especially in rural areas, lack access to clean and reliable energy. Instead, they depend on solid fuels such as biomass and coal frequently obtainable in relatively small amounts for basic needs such as cooking. This situation describes what energy poverty is. There is a consensus that sustainable development of a country cannot be achieved without a proper access to affordable, reliable and clean energy services to the population.

Energy poverty has major impacts on health, economic activity and the environment, because it reduces current and future productivity and limits the potential for development. In this paper, I adopt the Capability Theory as informed by Amartya Sen in order to deepen our understanding of energy poverty. This paper also concerns a thorough understanding of energy poverty which would make us better understand the demand for energy services for domestic energy consumption. The study reveals that the conceptualizing energy development from the perspective of Capability Theory sheds light on a wide range of ways in which energy is instrumentally important for wellbeing and quality of life.

Education and Development

Analyzing the effectiveness of constructivist and conventional pedagogical methods in teacher education

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Conventional methods in education are very mundane in edifying. They ignore the student and the noetic level of interest of the students, for instance. However, the emerging trends include the constructivist method which is moral and more fixate on innovative activities and erudition acquisition. It seems more feasible to follow the constructivist method for the edification of English at Teacher Trainees and the constructivist is more feasible in engaging the students in innovative and ingenious activities. Constructivism gives students the ownership of what they learn, since learning is predicated on students' questions and explorations, and often the students have a hand in designing the assessments as well. Constructivist assessment engages the students' initiatives and personal investments in their journals, research reports, physical models, and artistic representations. Engaging the ingenious instincts develops students' facilities to express erudition through a variety of ways. The students are withal more liable to retain and transfer the incipient cognizance to authentic life. Constructivism will bring a novel approaches to the orthodox ineffective Sri Lankan Education System in Sri Lankan context; this contradiction has never studied before. Therefore, the objective of this research is to compare pedagogical modules based on the constructivist method with the conventional method in teacher Education at one of a National College of Education (NCoE), which is situated in the Western province of Sri Lanka. Experimental and control groups were respectively 32 each. The experimental group was taught with the constructivist method by utilizing a developed module. Pre and post-tests were used to perceive the difference the two groups. T-test was used to check the consequential distinction amongst the experimental and control group after experimentation. It is discovered that both the groups were equipollent regarding their achievement scores in edification of English communication afore the experiment but after experimentation there was a significant differentiation amongst two groups in their achievement. It is concluded that this paramount performance of experiment group may be due to edifying student edifiers of speculative group with constructivist method. Findings and conclusions of the present study suggest that modern and practical pedagogical techniques and strategies may be employed in the context of Sri Lankan's classrooms settings especially in the subject of English communication skills of Teacher Trainees because a nation's progress and prosperity largely depends on its advancement in the field of ecumenically accepted English Language to understand modern concepts and different cultures and inculcation plays the role of ladder in achieving this goal.

Keywords: *Instructional Method, Constructivist, Conventional, Learning Theories*

The determinants of the educational levels of young shanty people: With special references to Kelaniya Divisional Secretariat

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Education plays a vital role in economic and social development of any community. Every person - children, young people and adults - in a country should contribute to the achievement of development aims of the country; in particular, the young generation can/should endure much responsibility because of their physical and mental strength. However, due to geographical and social barriers within a country, no one could give maximum contribution to the achievement of those aims. In this respect, urban migration, which has become a serious problem, has direct impacts on the long term targets of a country, while negatively affecting the global achievements indirectly. For instance, it is a common consensus that people in urban slums and shanties in Sri Lanka are economically and socially disadvantaged to a great extent, and their educational attainment is significantly low. This may affect the development targets of the country. This study, therefore, was carried out with the objective of identifying the determinants of the educational levels of young shanty people, with special references to the Kelaniya Divisional Secretariat of the Gampaha district. Primary data were totally used for the generation of relevant results and 200 young shanty people (including both males and females) were selected from four Gramasewa Niladhari Divisions which represent a shanty background. A stratified random sampling method was used to select the sample and, structured interviews and questionnaires were the modes of data collection. The Ordinary Logistic Regression was employed to originate the statistical outcome of the achievement of the main objective of the study and data presentation methods were used to find results of sub objectives. The results revealed that both economic and social factors impact the varying levels of education of young shanty people in the selected area. The gender difference, health, parents' influence, people who consort with parents' education levels, fathers' liquor usage, and available sanitary facilities such as electricity were identified as determinants of less educational attainments and high school dropouts of the identified group. It was clarified that non-economic reasons have created a high impact than economic reasons on these varieties. Both government and family members including parents of these families have duties to find better solutions to resolve these issues. Equal caring for both genders, constant motivation of parents, health and sanitary facility development were mentioned as recommendations, which will produce realistic results to resolve the issue.

Keywords: *Education, Youth, Urbanization, Shanty*

ICT, higher education and the dispelling illusions of the culture of trust: Analysing classroom situations in the University of Kashmir

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Trust in higher education has been an increasingly important issue over the years, spurred due to several reasons; namely, the increase of college and university costs, employer concerns about graduates' and post graduates' lack of knowledge and skills expected in the workplace, and questions about scholarships and so on. Meanwhile, the higher education in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is becoming widely recognised by several countries worldwide as a means of developing an efficient human resource capacity that is required to ensure economic growth and sustainable development. However, the matter of the fact, as indicated by empirical evidences, is that although ICT has played a significant role in transforming the knowledge world, at the same time it has been playing a vital role in generating gaps, inequalities and disparities, and subsequently a disconnected and distrustful atmosphere has emerged. While analysing classrooms of the University of Kashmir, it has been observed that, despite the increased use of technology in education in such classrooms, many students still lack the technology literacy needed for the completion of university assignments. This heterogeneity in classrooms has further widened the gap in terms of teaching methodology, and increased the distrust in the higher education of the University. Based on a sample of 200 respondents and using a questionnaire as the primary tool of the data collection, the present paper deliberates upon the role played by ICT in providing a platform for the growing disconnect and distrust in the name of knowledge within the heterogeneous classrooms of the University of Kashmir. The findings of the paper suggest that with the use of ICT in teachinglearning methods, there has been an increase in the distrust among the students and teachers. It has added to the existing disparities within and among the students and classrooms of the University of Kashmir.

Keywords: *Education, Knowledge, ICT, Trust, Stratification*

Revolutionary Art: Empowering mankind

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From time immemorial, art has played an indispensable role in bringing out revolutions and reforms. Art reflects the period: the time when it has been created. During the past two centuries, the world has been swept by the wind of Capitalism (which still exists). With the fall of the bourgeoisie and the rise of the proletariat, the economic scenario of the world has also changed. In this regard, revolutionary art reflects two kinds of phenomena: works whose themes reflect revolution and works which do not represent revolution as a theme but reflect a new consciousness of revolution. The painter Henri Matisse once remarked that all art bears the imprint of its historical epoch, but that great art is that in which this imprint is deeply marked.

With this view in mind, this paper focuses on to explore how revolution is reflected in art and how the guild of new and old poets and artists has become a part of the living tissue of revolution. Besides, the policy in art during a transitional period must help various groups to grasp completely the historic meaning of the revolution, and to allow them complete freedom of self-determination in the field of art after putting before them the categorical standard of being for or against revolution. This paper concludes why our art needs self-consciousness; whether it should be realistic, active, vitally collectivist and be filled with a limitless creative faith in the future or is full of mysticism.

Keywords: *Bourgeoisie, Capitalism, Revolutionary art, Consciousness, Transitional*

Introducing the information and communication tools to socio- disadvantaged masses with a view to empowering them with the language skills

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The present century is the era of information and communication technology and its impact has already reached language classrooms. Accordingly, the language teacher also needs to develop his/her own platform and environment to assist the students cope with their challenges and difficulties in language learning, specifically encountered due to information technology. The objective of our study was to explore the difficulties and challenges encountered by English language teachers in this respect and to experiment with possible apt methods to face such challenges through classroom experiments and to empower students. The study was carried out among undergraduates of the Gardi Arts College, of Gujarat University. Findings revealed that students are gifted with hidden skills, but they need to be motivated, by providing them with viable alternatives to learn with their limited exposure to the target language. In this respect, the tools like e-material, audio-visual collections, news articles, websites, email interactions and SMS feature of mobile help them to a great extent. The concurrent interactions with the students have also strengthened the trust of the teachers in their ability and also have boosted their enthusiasm to work for better results. The study concludes that through the hands-on experimental method investigated in the study, ICT techniques should be incorporated to a great extent into teaching English to maximize students' motivation and for their language improvement for practical needs, thus to empower both students and teachers.

Keywords: *ICT tools, Undergraduates, Gujarati*

Scope for professional development through the concept of Flipped Learning: A classroom experience

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Teachers, who aim at professional development, need to equip themselves with the latest teaching trends. Watson's (2013) observation and consideration of self-efficacy as part of self-regulatory process in Social Learning Theory (Bandura, 1977) could very well be applied to teachers' knowledge enhancement in using emerging technologies. It must be stated that such learning motivates teachers to try out new concepts like Flipped Learning with their students. The present study focused on an action research carried out in a B.Tech classroom and this paper discusses the extent to which the students' language skills and participation can be enhanced through Flipping in a language classroom. The language teachers of the university (where the presenter is currently working) identified two modules (from the language syllabus) for offering related videos, audio files and text materials as learning contents to the first year engineering students through the mobile application created by them. While every teacher focused on a particular language skill during training sessions (using the concept of Flipped Learning), the presenter focused on training students in collaborative writing. After the brainstorming session in the classroom on writing argumentative and expository essays, students were then divided into groups and encouraged to work on selective essay topics and their subtopics. The learning content for the assigned topic was given in the form of audio, video files and text materials through the mobile application. Next, the group members had to gather information outside the classroom by accessing the learning content in their mobile. Once they returned to the classrooms, they were then asked to discuss the content with the members in order to prepare the essay. While a few groups were assigned argumentative essays, a few others had to work on an expository essay with the help of the template given to them by the presenter. Thus, in the entire process, the teacher could observe student involvement in completing the activity and assisting each other while preparing content for essays. Although a few students shared very few points with their group members and a few did not have Android phones to access learning content (for whom the learning content was shared through email), it was evident that the students had the opportunity to explore additional information on a given topic on their own. In the case of teachers, as mentioned earlier, they could use the emerging technology and try out a new teaching approach to make their students actively participate in the learning process. It is worthwhile to mention that the positive response from students towards Flipped Learning has led to the language teachers to decide on video recording their own inputs relating to various topics (in order to train students in all the four skills) and presenting the learning content both through mobile applications and class Wiki in the forthcoming semester.

Keywords: *Professional development, Flipped Learning, Mobile devices*

An Analysis of Malala Yousafzai's speeches

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The main method of instruction in Japan for helping students to become accustomed to making a speech in English has been having them memorise famous speeches by native speakers of English. The main aim of this study was to explore some speeches of Malala Yousafzai as a non-native speaker of English and find the art of rhetoric in her speeches. The second aim was to see whether Japanese students become good public speakers with her art of rhetoric or not. To achieve those aims, first, the author investigated the style, in terms of rhetoric and disposition, of several of Malala's speeches such as the Nobel Lecture delivered on December 10, 2014 in Oslo, Norway. After that, the author made students exposed to the kinds of rhetoric which strongly impact the audience, by exploring and analysing Malala's speeches. Then, students' performance was analysed; using some of the techniques students learned, they were instructed to make their own speeches. This study found in the Malala speeches some rhetorical factors; 1) choice of words, 2) sentence structure, 3) parallelism, and 4) antithesis, and that students gained a new understanding of how to entertain listeners with the learned rhetoric. Improvement in their speeches via this procedure was evident.

Keywords: *Rhetoric, Malala Yousafzai, Parallelism*

“JOB-E-LEARN”: An experiment to empower teachers for E-Teaching

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A teacher is a creative thinker and an efficient producer of content for his students' learning. He can produce very effective learning material if he is provided with the help of technology. “JOB-E-LEARN” is an effort to provide the teacher a complete range of tools of e-content creation and to present the content before the students for e-learning. There are three components of “JOB-E-LEARN”; namely, (i) the open source content repository (AE-Store) providing the facility to store and search reusable open learning objects, (ii) the authoring tool (E-writer) which generates various courses and course components like e-books, class notes, wiki, presentation, audio lecture, video lecture, video film, reference article FAQ and so on and (iii) the Learning Management System (ANILA) which provides learning experience online to the students. The nature of the present research is an experimental study, which included development of tools and testing the effectiveness of the tool. “JOB-ELEARN” is a site developed in PHP and MYSQL with all three aforesaid components. The experiment was conducted in four phases. First, the participating teachers were trained for online teaching–learning. Then teachers developed reusable learning objects (RLO) and stored them in the repository. Thirdly, the prepared learning objects were used for composition of course and course components, and lastly, the outcome was evaluated by peer developers and the teachers' responses for the process and system was evaluated.

The training effectiveness was measured by comparing pre-test and post-test scores. The RLOs were evaluated by checklist scoring and grading method. The responses were collected on a five point rating scale and the analysis was done using the Chi Square Test. Teachers' training was found effective and RLOs prepared by trainees had the necessary properties. The peer evaluation results found “JOB-E-LEARN” an effective, easy to use and teacher-friendly tool. “JOB-E-LEARN” was found to be a usable tool for the creation of e-content by the teachers.

Keywords: *E-teaching, E-content repository, LMS, Authoring tool*

Introducing legal education in the school curriculum for a peaceful Sri Lanka: A socio-legal review

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School Education is the most important factor to all of us. For a luxurious or better life, one should be educated. It is the medium which transforms a person to live a better life from his small age. Therefore, preparing a substantive school curriculum plays an important role. But today the issue is that the school curriculum is fairly career-oriented and students lack basic knowledge to live in societies. In this regard, for any individual, the basic legal knowledge may be very important since law is the set of rules which governs a society; it may create a direct impact on every citizen, because the ignorance or lack of knowledge of law is not an excuse for a person to be engaged in any misconduct. But today, the main reason behind most of the legal issues in Sri Lanka is not the insufficiency of laws, but people's unawareness about general legal aspects and of people's rights, and duties expected from citizens in return. On that backdrop, the aims of this study were to seek firstly the general legal problems which the society undergoes, secondly to identify the reasons for the occurrence of such legal problems, thirdly to identify how the authoritative institutions act upon these situations and finally to clarify how introducing legal education in the school curriculum can overcome this issue. This research followed a qualitative legal research methodology based on secondary sources basically conducted through Internet searches which included online books and journals. In order to study the background pertaining to this topic internationally, this study also focused on some western countries which provide legal education at the school level, which can be considered as a mentor to Sri Lanka. Also this research followed primary sources which included meaningful comments of renowned legal personalities. This study revealed that providing a general legal approach to any individual through school education has lots of advantages. That makes any individual consider law as a vital element which is related to every aspect in their lives. Based on some international experience, the study proposes that through legal education, citizens are taught their legal rights and the legal means to protect those rights, which, in turn, encourage respect for human rights in the whole society. That has a direct impact on minimising the rate of crimes and violations of law. Further it makes people respect others and value everything which lie around them including the environment. Thus, rather than treating law as an alien subject, exposing students to law from childhood is essentially productive and provides a better supervision for any individual and that will ultimately enhance the dignity of the country and its citizens.

Determinants of academic performance of Management undergraduate students: A case study

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Students who enter the public university system come from a wide range of social backgrounds, which has offered these students different life experiences and styles, different educational opportunities, expectations, needs and varied academic potentials. After 2002, there have been some significant changes in the traditional environment for the students in the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC), University of Sri Jayewardenepura. It had a tradition of enrolling fulltime students on an annual basis before 2002. However, in 2002 there was a shift to accommodate students under the semester system. The differences between the conventional system and the semester system include: the time when lectures are conducted, medium of instruction, evaluation system, size of the class, the method of teaching, course content, attendance policy, structure of the degree programme, subject combinations and so on. Dropout rates for certain subjects like Information Technology (IT) and Mathematics are also recorded higher than that of others. Keeping in view of all these considerations, this study was conducted to examine the effect of different factors on the undergraduate students' academic performance at the FMSC in the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The main objective of the study was to identify major determinants of undergraduate students' academic performance at FMSC.

The sample consisted of 200 undergraduates. They were selected using random sampling based on their attendance sheet data for management undergraduates from six departments. The data were collected through a structured questionnaire. Ordinary least squares multiple regression analysis was used to identify the association between dependent and independent variables. The study used academic performance as a dependent variable and academic performance was measured based on the Grade Point Average (GPA). Independent variables were gender, level of English and IT knowledge, family income, lectures and tutorial participation, library usage, use of references and extra reading materials, usage of the internet, and students' residence and their job. The findings revealed the existence of a significant relationship between students' English knowledge and academic performance, but there was no relationship between gender and academic performance. Harb and El-Shaarawi (2006) found that the most important factor, which affects students' performance, is student's competence in English. The result of this research is also consistent with their findings. Borde (1998) found that gender is not related to the student's performance, and the result of this study confirms this.

Keywords: *Academic performance, Undergraduate students, Knowledge of English*

Efficiency of teaching methods on computer literacy among Sri Lankan school children

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Computer Literacy refers to having the skills and the knowledge to use computers competently (Bertz, Johnson, 2000), and it has become increasingly important as companies have started to depend upon computerised technology to get their work done. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been a school subject since 2004 but insufficient studies have been conducted on the effect of teaching methods used by Sri Lankan school teachers. Given this, this study aimed to ascertain the efficiency of teaching methods on computer literacy amongst Sri Lankan school children. Objectives of this study were (a) to study the effect of teaching methods, gender and their interaction on computer literacy of students by seeing pre-computer literacy as a covariate, (b) to study the effect of teaching methods, intelligence and their interaction on computer literacy of students by taking into consideration precomputer literacy as covariate and (c) to study the effect of teaching methods, types of school and their interaction on computer literacy of students by considering precomputer literacy as a covariate. Convenient sampling was used to collect data during the academic year 2014-2015 from Grade 7 students of Gampaha District in Western province of Sri Lanka. Total sample size was 154, composed as control and experimental groups. Findings revealed that there is no paramount effect of teaching methods, gender and their interaction on computer literacy of students by considering pre-computer literacy as covariate. There is a paramount effect of teaching methods and gender on computer literacy. There is no paramount effect of teaching methods, perspicacity and their interaction on computer literacy of students by considering pre-computer literacy as a covariate. There is no consequential effect of astuteness on computer literacy of the students. There is a paramount effect of teaching methods, type of school and their interaction on computer literacy of students by considering pre-computer literacy as covariate. There is a paramount effect of types of school on the computer literacy. The paper concludes by suggesting that students should be provided with open access to computers. Computers have a paramount role to play in ameliorating the quality of edification and in imparting life skills. Computers can provide equal opportunities and required contexts to children from all types of socio-economic and cultural background to achieve rudimentary levels of literacy and inculcation. This study can be utilized as a substructure for future research. Additionally, policy makers can take these outcomes into consideration when they design the curriculum for school ICT programmes.

Keywords: *Computer literacy, ICT, Sri Lankan school children, Teaching methods*

Third party evaluation study: National level Information Communication Technology (ICT) integration program at small schools in Sri Lanka

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The objective of this study was to evaluate the integration of ICT in small schools in Sri Lanka under the one- to-one learning environment where each student was provided a XO laptop in Sri Lanka. Although Information Technology education had been introduced to state schools from early 1983s, there was no provision for the introduction of computers to primary grades in Sri Lanka. As such a special Cabinet approval was given for the implementation of the program with XO laptops under the 08/1755/31 6/087 paper. The relevant clause in ref. B/EDC/6 describes the mission of this programme: to create an educational opportunity for the world's poorest children by providing each child with a low cost, low power laptop connected with software designed for self-empowered learning for children between ages 6-11. However, students abandoned the use of these XO laptops within less than one year after millions of rupees had been spent on them. Therefore, an objective based third party evaluation study was conducted according to Sakamoto's (2005) framework. Eight small schools out of the 13 project schools were randomly selected as the sample. Each of these eight schools was subject to classroom observation to identify the practices in the learning process and other policy issues in the XO-laptops environment relevant to the socio-cultural context of each school. The data collection also included focus-group discussions with 10 students and 5 parents, and face-to-face interviews with 5 teachers including the "teacher in charge of XO laptops" as well as the principal of each school. Thus, the sample comprises 80 students, 40 parents, 40 teachers, 8 principals / teacher in charge. Documents relevant to the ICT program at the school level as well as the Ministry level were studied. Focus group interviews were conducted with teachers to identify the gaps in the implementation issues of ground level users.

Despite the fact the programme is named one laptop per child, at policy level; this condition did not prevail at ground level implementation. Video recordings of classrooms in action were analyzed based on the activity theory. According to the interviews it was evident that low income parents had hardly any idea regarding laptop maintenance. The use of the XO laptop as a mediated factor was wanted since they had not been able to master the potentials of ICT as a learning tool despite the fact that students displayed success in digital literacy (81%). According to principals, many social issues such as the lack of electricity at students' houses and schools made it difficult for students to charge their XOs. Further, some XO laptops had been distributed without solar power panels. Even in instances where panels were received, it was found that some panels were not in the working condition. It is suggested that policy level decision making on ICT programs for socially deprived communities should include strategies for sustainability as well as strategies for cost benefit analysis of the program especially in the instance of developing countries like Sri Lanka.

Theory and practice in language teaching in Kerala

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Language teaching has an important role in our education system. India is a multilingual country where the importance of second language learning is an integral part of the society. There are different theories related to language teaching. Over the years, the theories have undergone many changes, but the application of most of the theories are limited to a small sphere when it comes to reality, as evident through the outcome. Therefore, the objective of this research was to explore the relationship between the theory and practical aspects of language teaching in Kerala. It specifically focused on pedagogical aspects of language teaching. Accordingly, data was collected from different colleges in Kerala from the Bachelor of Arts students of different colleges in Kerala. The sample consisted of 388 college students from different backgrounds. The analysis took into account, classroom teaching, teaching materials used in the classroom and textbook information. The research findings show that even though the development in the field of language teachings has increased the level of teaching, when it comes to the reality, the result is not significant. The findings of the study prove that there is a gap between theory and practice, especially in relation to contexts in Kerala. The analysis also investigated the reasons for the gap between theory and practice. Thus, this paper intends to give a concrete idea of theory and practice of language teaching with reference to English language teaching in Kerala.

Importance of digital literacy for language teachers and learners

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Digital technology has significantly contributed to the shaping of an increasingly digitalised landscape of English language teaching (ELT) today. Despite various efforts by educational institutions and academic bodies, there is relatively less seriousness in adapting to technology in ESL and English as a Foreign Language (EFL) teaching. English language teachers' awareness and application of digital literacy contribute to the full professional development of their learners. The presence or absence of technology plays a major role in the English teaching – learning process. It results in a clear cut distinction between urban and rural sections. Therefore, there is a need to research and survey ESL and EFL teaching possibilities and practices; the identified gap was the main concern of the present study. The present article is the outcome of the study conducted to explore the need to familiarise language teachers with digital tools and technology in teaching English language. Through a critical evaluation and various examples, it is reiterated that there is a need to train the language teachers in the use of digital resources as the use of digital resources help to wipe the cultural and economic divide in the society.

Education for life: How to live together

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In the midst of rapid global change, the Asia-Pacific Region, with its unique features in terms of culture, population and socio-economic conditions, is faced with increasing challenges that require immediate attention. These challenges are related to the issues of peace, human rights, democracy and sustainable development. Although there has been a conflict throughout history, new factors are accentuating the risk, particularly the extraordinary capacity for self-destruction that humanity has created in the course of the 20th century. In order to resolve these issues, people of the region and people of the world should accept their differences but start working on the basis of their commonalities for the survival of humankind. The people of the region should learn to live together on the basis of mutual respect and understanding, helping one another, sharing and caring for the benefit of all. Learning to live together requires a dynamic, holistic, life-long process involving education of all segments of society. In this respect, the objective of this study was to posit the importance of education for life through an analysis of literature on education articulated by Gandhiji and Swami Vivekananda, and the findings of UNSECO reports. Thus, this paper concludes that it is necessary to devise a form of education which will make it possible to avoid conflicts or resolve conflicts peacefully by promoting learning to live together with others, by developing a spirit of respect for the values of pluralism and the need for mutual understanding and peace.

Keywords: *Education, Learning, Peace*

Geography and Environmental Science

An assessment of the productivity of Weras Ganga Storm water drainage and environment improvement project in the Boralessgamuwa Urban Council of Sri Lanka

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The urban population of Sri Lanka has increased rapidly and nearly one-third of the country's population is living in cities. The largest seven cities, including Boralessgamuwa in the western province, constitute nearly 50 percent of the urban population of Sri Lanka. Most of the urban clusters in the Colombo district represent nearly every three out of four urban people of the country. Therefore, authorities should move quickly to implement projects that focused on social, economic, environmental and physical development of urban areas while researchers must be concerned with the progress of expected outcomes of such programmes. In light of the above, the main objective of the research is to evaluate the productivity of Weras Ganga Storm Water Drainage and Environment Improvement Project (WSDEIP), which was, implemented in 2014 in the Borelessgamuwa suburbs. Five GN divisions were selected by using cluster-sampling method for primary data collection particularly through a questionnaire, observation and focused group discussions. A mixed data analysis method with quantitative and qualitative techniques such as a measure of the central tendency and disperse, regression analysis and content analysis was applied. In order to assess the productivity, communitybased parameters were also used with the help of modern cartographic techniques. The results revealed that the implementation of the project has promoted sustainable development practices like green environment planning and ecotourism. The protection of the Attidiya bird sanctuary and Bolgoda canal has also been assured by this project. One of the main positive impacts of the project is the management of storm water drainage and subsequently the most of the flood prone areas have been preserved. Increasing daily commuting into the region has resulted in encouraging recreational activities such as jogging. However, several negative impacts have increased over the time such as decreasing of fauna and flora species in the wetland and losing livelihoods of local farmers and unattended maintenance. It can be concluded that the productivity of WSDEIP is acceptable in terms of controlling flood hazard, community development and ecological preservation.

Keywords: *Environment improvement, Storm water drainage management, Urban development.*

Climate change effects: Vulnerability of SAARC countries' women in the last decade

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Climate change is one of the most popular topics in the world and its consequences are considered very dangerous. But, this paper will only discuss the vulnerability of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries and women who live in the region. The aims of the research are to investigate the effects of climate change on the women of the SAARC region and how they can be protected from natural disasters. Many natural disasters are created by Climate change. These disasters have had impacts on economic development, patterns of human migration, world health, and agriculture. Everyone in the SAARC countries as well as in the world is affected by these changes but the problem is that the adverse effects of these changes are not experienced by everyone equally. The hypothesis of this research is "Women suffer more from the impact of Climate Change effects in SAARC countries than men." The research questions are "What are the climate change issues of SAARC countries?" "Why does climate change affect women more than men in SAARC countries?", and "What are the regional mechanisms adopted in the last decade to particularly protect vulnerable women in the subjected areas from negative impacts of climate change through documents such as declarations, treaties and conventions made by SAARC"? The main objectives of the research are based on the answers of the research questions. Qualitative details which are based on the theoretical aspect and details as well as quantitative data are used. Secondary data which are published on the Internet, paper articles, books and researches of other authors which are relevant to the topic as well as national policies of natural disasters of those countries are used. According to the World Bank, the climate change will affect the poor in SAARC countries, especially breast feeding mothers, pregnant women, and old women because of cultural norms, customs and the inequitable sharing of roles, resources, and power. However, according to the World Bank details, climate change impacts increased in SAARC countries in the last decade. Most SAARC countries have national natural disaster and climate change policies, but these policies do not focus on women who are particularly the vulnerable group. Also, when executing the policies, there are some loopholes because of traditions and cultural norms of the SAARC countries. Therefore, this paper proposes that there should be strong national policies to prevent the detrimental effects of climate change; the existing policies should be updated giving attention to women as a vulnerable group subject to climate change impacts

Keywords: Climate change, SAARC, women.

Impact of road transportation infrastructure on the development of tourism industry of the Jaffna municipal council area in Sri Lanka

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The relationship between tourism and transportation has been an important point in many studies for a long time. The role of transportation is manifested in connecting tourism demand and supply and in the internal features of supply which is one of the primary preconditions to the existence of tourism. It is a key element that links tourists to destinations to be accessed and it is an integral part of the tourism industry which links tourists with various tourist attractions by providing connections between regions and cities and connecting attractions, accommodation and commercial services at destinations. Tourism is a key element in promoting national and regional economies but it can put pressure on existing transport services and infrastructure. Cities and regions are faced with absorbing seasonal tourist flows while delivering adequate transport network performance. Jaffna city is important for linking transportation routes to other parts of the countries by Road Network, Railway line, Sea Route and Air Route. Road transportation is playing a key role to increase the tourism industry. The location, capacity, efficiency and connectivity of transport can therefore play a significant role in how a destination develops. There is a general agreement that tourism expands more when there are better transportation systems. In the context of Jaffna, tourism is underperforming compared to the natural areas and heritages. One of the things mentioned as the reason for under performance is poor local road transportation systems. Therefore, this study examines the impact of infrastructure on tourism development in Jaffna with greater emphasis on road transportation and identifies transportation needs for tourism promotion in Jaffna District. Structured questionnaires and observation were used for data the collection. Collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Further Space Syntax Analysis was also used to know the existing route pattern and to identify the new routes for the integration purposes. The study identified road transportation needs for tourism development, to be maintenance of the existing roads and construction of more roads. The study concludes by proving that tourism development could be even bigger if more could be done in various elements of transportation systems. This study can help to increase the sustainable tourism of Jaffna MC Area in future and the transportation planners and designers can use this as a strategy to identify the best routes for integrating the routes.

Keywords: *Tourism industry, Transportation system, Transportation planners, Space syntax analysis*

Identifying the factors affecting the commuter satisfaction on Public Transport Service: A case study on Government and Private Bus Services in Sri Lanka

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The increase in the travel demand and preference for using private vehicles creates traffic jams in urban areas of many countries. Currently, most of Sri Lankans living in urban areas prefer using private transport modes to public transport services. This phenomenon reveals us that there is a problematic situation in the commuter satisfaction on public transport service in Sri Lanka. Main objectives of this study were to construct a composite index to measure the commuter satisfaction level (CSL) and to identify the factors affecting the CSL. Using the cluster sampling method, a sample of hundred and twenty (120) commuters were recruited from four bus routes namely: Kandy (Route No. 01), Matara (Route No. 02), Anuradhapura (Route No. 15) and Embilipitiya (Route No. 03). A questionnaire based interview method was used to collect data. A specific composite index construction methodology based on multiple corresponding analysis was applied to measure the CSL and one sample t-test was used to test the CSL. Further, multiple regression analysis method was used to identify the significant factors affecting the CSL. Distributions of both government and private commuter satisfaction indices (CSI) were right skewed with median values of 24.74 and 12.09 respectively. Results of ttests suggested that government commuters had a lower dissatisfaction level while private commuters had a higher level of satisfaction. According to regression models, safety, professionalism and information were significant factors on the CSL for government transport services. However, safety and professionalism were only significant with private transport services. With regard to recommendations, more buses should be arranged during peak hours to facilitate passengers while promoting the use of existing touch travel card system. Further, it is important to provide more comfortable buses, establish proper transport policies to avoid travel time delays, control the unnecessary sound generated by radios and televisions, display bus time tables at bus halts in different routes for the convenience of the commuters and improve the quality attributes of the service more than the physical facilities.

Keywords: *Commuter satisfaction, Public transport, Transport policies, Traffic jams*

Feasibility analysis on relocation of landslide vulnerable settlements in Badulla district

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Natural hazard mitigation strategies are a major concern today both at global and local levels. Landslide risk reduction has become one of the major challenges in the disaster management process in Sri Lanka. As part of the disaster risk reduction, the resettlement processes can be strengthened using spatial tools and methods to minimize the risk. The main objective of this study is to identify the most suitable locations for resettling people living in landslide prone areas in the Badulla District of Sri Lanka.

In terms of the methodology, Geographic Information System (GIS) was used to generate and analyse spatial data collected through primary and secondary sources. The weighted overlay techniques were applied to arrive at the final environmental suitability mapping. The physical and socio-economic factors used for the evaluation of environmental and disaster free suitability of the resettlement site are land use/land cover, topography, proximity, and infrastructural facility. Approximately 100km² of the selected region was identified as highly vulnerable while about 380 km² was moderately vulnerable for landslide hazards. Suitability analysis indicates that only 105 km² of the area has a “high” suitability condition and 34 km² area is “moderately” suitable for resettling people living in landslide prone areas. It is recommended that even the available ‘risk free’ lands should also be reclassified with suitable human-induced factors such as environmental perception and place preference. The unavailability of adequate ‘risk free’ lands has created several issues and challenges for sustainable and resilient resettlement process.

The GIS platform is used to integrate spatially complex and different ecological factors for performing land suitability analysis. With adequate data, it is possible to identify the vulnerable areas. Also, the resettlement process can be made sustainable and resilient with the support of a GIS approach.

Keywords: *Landslide vulnerability, Resettlement, Multi criteria evaluation, Weighted Overlay Analysis*

Modeling for River Basin Management: Its application to Mi Oya in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka

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Sri Lanka has 103 river basins that have water flows starting from the central highland. Most of the river basins have already been used for many purposes such as irrigation, hydro-power generation, industries and urban water supplies. In addition, the most upper basins have undergone high utilization by human activities such as upland cultivation, river water withdrawal, road construction and human settlements.

From a hydrological point of view, all these activities directly and indirectly affect the stream water flow to the lower basin. In the case of Mi Oya, for a long time, it has been evident that there is a lack of water for a number of large irrigation reservoirs and hundreds of small tanks located in the lower basin. Hydrologically, the upper catchment is the main source of water to the main flow in turn to the lower basin. When water from the upper catchment is drastically changed, it affects the lower basin water use. Thus, it is essential to adopt a better water management system. Based on this concept, a model for basin management was built up using hydrological parameters and socio-economic data, derived from a research carried out from 2010 - 2015. The model was applied to the Mi Oya upper basin and explored how basin water balance has been affected by human interference. This paper first presents a model developed, and afterwards discusses what measures should be adopted to support more water to be drained to the lower stream. Hydrological parameters namely rainfall, temperature and evaporation were collected from the nearest stations in addition to site measurements in the field. Catchment water yield (Wy) was done by using formula $Wy = (P - E) \times A$ where P, rainfall E, evaporation A, area of the catchment. Water discharge (Q) of the streams was computed using floating method $Q = V_a \times A$ where V_a flow velocity where A cross-section of the stream x depth. Adequacy of water in the reservoirs was calculated by water level studies of reservoirs together with farmer's experiences. It was revealed that the total volume of water produced by the upper catchment has been considerably (40%) decreased due to human activities. The prominent activity is the blocking out of small streams by farmers for their own purposes such as the construction of private tanks and newly made paddy fields. It is also evident that removing vegetation cover for chena cultivation has caused higher water evaporation from the soil resulting in low water discharge to the drainage system. The model proposed measures three types mitigations, improving and controlling to ensure the increase of water derived from the upper basin to the lower basin.

Keywords. *Basin management, Water yield, Dry Zone*

Temporal and spatial changes of tropical coastal environment: A GIS and remote sensing based analysis on Negombo Lagoon in Sri Lanka

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Coastal lagoons are shallow water bodies separated from the ocean by a barrier, connected to it at least temporarily by one or more restricted inlets and usually oriented parallel to the shore. They are important coastal landforms based on their environment such as biological, geological, physical and chemical characteristics they possess under dynamic systems and processes. Their floral and faunal diversity along with the physical environment have been able to provide a wide array of ecosystem services for the human welfare over thousands of years in many countries around the world. Negombo Lagoon was one of the most productive estuaries in Sri Lanka. The complex and diverse environment of the Negombo Lagoon has undergone changes both temporally and spatially over the past centuries due to a number of biophysical and socio-economic drivers. Some of the changes occurred drastically during last few decades due to the aggravation of drives. Because of its complex nature, it is a challenging task to carry out a comprehensive analysis of such changes. An integrated analysis of this complexity is a prerequisite for understanding the multiple drivers coursed to dynamism of the lagoon environment. In addition, it is a timely need to understand the environment changes to minimize negative changes and to enhance positive changes to preserve the productivity of the lagoon. The objectives of this research study were to identify coastal environmental changes in the Negombo lagoon over the past decades, to identify spatial distribution of environmental changes and to propose sustainable management strategies in order to conserve coastal natural resources for sustainable utilization. An integrated methodology was adopted for this study. Land use maps were prepared to identify existing coastal resources in the lagoon and to identify changes occurred over the past decades using GIS data obtained from satellite images. Location specific changes were identified by field observations, focus group discussions with stakeholders and using secondary data. Parameters considered for analysis were eutrophication, habitat degradation, coastal erosion and geomorphologic modifications, introduction of invasive species, sedimentation, changes in salinity level, toxic effects due to chemicals, tidal changes, and sea level rising due to climate change and so on. The study revealed hydraulic, sediments and nutrients environmental changes; changes in the relationships and balance among dynamically interacting factors and processes; and changes in the quality of the brackish water due to the increase in salinity and accumulation of pollutants and the loss of habitats. These negative environmental changes have resulted in increasing unpredictability and severity of coastal problems such as floods, erosion, sedimentation and saltwater intrusion; environmental pollution; and the degradation of ecosystems, with accompanying decrease in biodiversity and fishery productivity. The study proposes a model that includes a participatory approach as the best strategy to minimize negative environmental changes.

Health and Social Care

Prevalence and associated risk factors of overweight and obesity among adults in Batticaloa

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Introduction and objectives: Obesity is a chronic condition and the prevalence of adult obesity is increasing rapidly worldwide due to environmental and behavioural changes such as urbanization and modernization. Data on prevalence and determinants of obesity in developing countries including different regions are needed for primary prevention. This study was undertaken to assess the prevalence of overweight and obesity in adults (above 18 years) in the Batticaloa district and to examine the associations of overweight and obesity with socio-economic, nutritional and lifestyle factors.

Methodology: A cross-sectional survey was conducted among 400 adults aged above 18 years. Systematic random sampling and simple random sampling methods were applied. Data on socioeconomic, nutritional and lifestyle factors were collected with a structured, interviewer administered questionnaire and anthropometric measurements of weight, height and waist circumference were measured by using appropriate measuring scales. Obesity was defined as Body Mass Index (BMI) > 27.5 kg/m² and overweight as BMI > 23 kg/m²; waist circumference > 90 cm for men and >80 cm for women considered as not-normal. Prevalence of overweight and obesity and the distribution of BMI by sociodemographic and lifestyle characteristics were assessed.

Results: Prevalence of overweight and obesity were 18.0% and 10.4% in the Batticaloa district. Prevalence of overweight and obesity in urban and rural areas were 21.4%, 16.8%, 17.0% and 8.8% respectively. Prevalence was high in females as well as in the age group of 35-44 years. Gender, age, marital status, ethnicity, religion, smoking, alcoholism, family history of overweight and obesity, sleeping habit after the meal in the evening, following weight reduction methods were the significant factors ($p < 0.05$) associated with overweight and obesity.

Conclusion and Recommendations: Prevalence of overweight was higher than obesity. Compared to rural areas, prevalence was high in urban areas. Females were more obese and overweight than males. Awareness programs should be carried out in the community especially in urban areas regarding weight reduction measures and primary prevention of overweight and obesity by eliminating risk factors. Health education programs must be conducted for the public regarding the consequences of overweight and obesity, especially for women and adults in the age group of 35-44 years, who were found to be vulnerable.

Keywords: *Obesity, Overweight, Prevalence, Adults, Batticaloa.*

Comparative physicochemical analysis of some marketed hair oils

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Hair is one of the vital parts of the body and a protective appendage on the body and considered accessory structure of integument along with sebaceous glands, sweat glands and nails. Hair oils are widely used by the consumer of the cosmetic industries. Hair is always considered as an important part of the body by all age groups for making a good personality and hence has been taken very seriously. Hair oil is generally used for growth & maintenance of hair on scalp. Thus, by considering hair oil as an important factor for hair, we have analyzed various available brands. Many brands are available in the market under herbal hair oil category for the cooling effect to the scalp surface. These oils contain plant extractives and some agents that give a cooling effect. Five Ayurvedic hair oils were evaluated for their physico-chemical properties, i.e. color, odor, density, viscosity refractive index, pH, saponification value, acid value and peroxide value. The leading brands of hair oil in the market, Himani Navratna oil, Shanti maha thanda oil, Dabur supar thanda oil, Amla oil, himgold oil were standardized for their above physicochemical properties. The hair oil samples comply for the requirements of acid value, peroxide value and saponification value. In addition to this, the containers for packaging of all the samples were light weight and made up of transparent polymer. These methods are simple and reproducible. Present investigation was undertaken to standardize the selected herbal hair oils on physicochemical parameters and some standards prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards.

Keywords: *Hair oil, Acid value, Peroxide value, Saponification value*

Geographic Information System (GIS) for identifying the spread of Thalassemia and supporting its mitigation

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Thalassemia is a gene-based hereditary disease that has originated in the Mediterranean region. People with Thalassemia produce less hemoglobin and have fewer circulating red blood cells than normal, which results in mild or severe anemia. Thalassemia can be present as microcytic anemia where red cells become smaller than normal in addition to the shortage of it. The identification of Thalassemia hotspots in Sri Lanka will help controlling or mitigating it and would help patients in many ways.

The main objective of this study was to identify and map the highest distribution of the spread of Thalassemia in Sri Lanka using Geographical Information System (GIS) and subsequently to develop a web-based spatial database of Thalassemia patients. Thalassemia data were collected island wide from 2011 to 2013 and were analyzed using GIS. Population data in each Grama Niladhari Division (GND) for 2012 were obtained from the Department of Census and Statistics, and Thalassemia data were collected from Thalassemia Centre.

After the analysis of island wide information, the highest distribution could be seen in Kurunegala District. Accordingly more data were collected within the Kurunegala District and analyzed to identify the distribution. This revealed that Nikaweratiya District Secretariat Division (DSD) reported the highest distribution. Thus, more detailed data were collected from households by field surveys using a questionnaire. The questioner gathered more details of patients including their family backgrounds, career information and so on. Data is analyzed using MS Excel and GIS technology to map the distribution, and to identify the mostly populated area for thalassemia patients. According to the results, 90% of patients' (434 nos.) marriage was between two Thalassemia carriers, and amongst their children, 25% are Thalassemia patients, 50% are carriers and the remaining are not affected by Thalassemia. Some of the reasons that have been identified for the spread of Thalassemia in Nikaweratiya DSD were traditional intermediate marriages in remote villages and natural selection of the gene, which causes Thalassemia in this area where the Malaria epidemic had been experienced. According to the results, Nikaweratiya DSD can be identified as the mostly affected area for Thalassemia, and it is necessary to avoid marriages between relatives to prevent it

The results were used to prepare a web-based database for providing solutions and awareness programs in that area and other areas to control the spread of Thalassemia. Further, this data help the coordination between blood donors and patients who need blood. In addition, it would be useful to recognize areas vulnerable for the spread of Thalassemia and the age distribution of patients. In addition to that, it can be utilized as a source of information to implement required policies by the relevant authorities.

Identification of human health hazards due to the contamination of Copper at the ground water

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The major sources of heavy metals in ground water include weathering of rock minerals, discharge of sewage and other waste effluents on land and runoff water. The water used for drinking purposes should be free from any toxic elements, living, and nonliving organisms and excessive amount of minerals that may be hazardous to health. Heavy metals are the major indicators of anthropogenic impact from various sources like dry ash deposition from incineration plants, industrial effluents, traffic activities, road runoff and landfill leachate. Thus, the monitoring of heavy metals contamination will be important to assess the landfill impact on groundwater quality. The objective of this study was to identify the human health hazards due to the contamination of Copper in the ground water. Copper is used extensively in alloys, plumping, wires, paints, ceramics and pesticides. Copper is an essential element and is generally not considered harmful to human health. The main source of copper in drinking water is from the corrosion of pipes used in water distribution systems. Water samples were collected into plastic bottles, samples were filtered using GF/C and pH of all water samples were adjusted below 2 by using ultra pure nitric acid (5mL/L). Resultant solutions were analyzed for copper by Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry. The results revealed that the level of copper in the groundwater samples at Mathagal village varied from 0.05 to 0.14 mg/L. The concentration of copper was found to be remarkably high at sites 5, 7, 8 and 9 at high concentrations; copper may impart an unpleasant taste to water and higher level of copper accumulation cause nervous system damage and kidney effects, toxic to humans. Many heavy metals in the environment have caused adverse effects on human health. This has adverse effects on human health and also the intellectual development of children. This study would be helpful to inform the public about the quality of their groundwater and raise public awareness about the issue.

Keywords: *Ground water, Copper, Human health*

Dietary intake amongst adolescent girls belonging to poor socio-economic groups in the district of Toba Tek Singh

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The dietary intake in the poor socio-economic groups of adolescent girls provides less energy from foods like meat products, full cream milk, fats, sugars, potatoes, preserves and cereals. The respondents of the group have an insufficient intake of vegetables, whole wheat bread and fruits and such type of diet contributes to the lack of proper nutrients i.e. calcium, iron, magnesium, vitamin C and float. Even though the dietary intake plays a vital role in the life of adolescent girls, those who are in poor socio-economic groups are unable to afford vegetables, fruits and milk etc. In most of the cases, educational, occupational and income levels are used for the characterization of socio-economic groups. This measure is also used to classify individuals in groups of similar status such as power, knowledge, prestige and resources. The aim of the current study is to find out the dietary intake pattern while investigating the poor diet-related diseases of adolescent girls. The present study was conducted in the district of Toba Tek Singh. Questionnaires were developed according to the objectives of this study. According to the findings of the study, the nutritional status of these adolescent girls is not ideal as it is below the standard. Malnutrition is a significant problem. Anemia and goiter rates are high and have a definite nutritional & social background, as these girls have low calorie and micronutrients consumption. Moreover, their diet is not balanced due to poverty, large family sizes, scarce health care facilities, lack of nutrition education and certain food taboos of adolescent girls. Accordingly, the lower socioeconomic status was found to be a positive association with less dietary intake amongst adolescence girls. The dietary intake has a positive relationship with socioeconomic status as the higher income caused the better diet intake. The positive relationship between the diet and the health balanced diet makes healthy and active.

Keyword: *Socio-economic, Adolescence, Intake, Nutrition, Micronutrients*

Health and economic consequences of obesity in Faisalabad

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Obesity is a chronic disease, which requires aggressive management. It may lead to high blood pressures and high cholesterol levels, which can result in cardiovascular diseases or strokes. The current study aims to find out the economic and health consequences of obesity of the adult population in Faisalabad. It further intends to explore relative risk factors of selected obesity co-morbidities of obese individuals. A sample of 300 respondents aged 20-59 years (103 men, 197 women) was recruited for the study. A blood glucose test was performed and the diagnosis of diabetes was made according to the W.H.O. criteria. Heights, weights, BMI and blood pressure of the study population were recorded. The chi-square test was used to identify the association among different variables and the logistic regression technique was applied to check the main significant risk factors and for prediction of the model. A standard questionnaire was employed to collect information regarding the risk factors from the subjects and the data was analyzed by using SPSS. Findings of the study show a positive association between socioeconomic and demographic traits of the respondents with obesity and comorbidities. Education was found to be positively associated with the health knowledge and exercises or physical activities while socioeconomic traits and demography have a positive association with the obese respondents. Higher education is found to have a positive impact towards the physical activity contribution and other healthy behaviors. Obesity has a positive relationship with socioeconomic status as the higher income causes the higher prevalence of obesity. The high caloric intake which is a major risk factor for obesity, showed a positive correlation with obesity. The study further identified the lack of awareness of respondents as a harmful consequence of obesity. Accordingly, it was identified that the prevalence of excess weight is highly prevalent among the adults in Pakistan and, as a result, people suffer the major risk of Type 2 diabetes and heart diseases. Less physical activity came out to be the significant determinant of excess weight. Females have a propensity to more obese, hypertension, and heart diseases. Accordingly, obesity is identified to be a chronic disorder that has multiple causes. Overweight and obesity in adults have a significant impact on physical health, psychologically & socioeconomically.

Keywords: *Obesity, Prevalence, Overweight, Co-morbidities, Chronic, Disorder, Bmi*

History and Archaeology

Identification of dance styles of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa periods: An Archaeological study on dancing figures of Sri Lanka

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Dancing is a traditional discipline as well as a source of knowledge having a definite style, and structural framing. Its continuity over generations keeping to the above features has converted it into a significant intangible cultural entity. In exploring the remains of human cognition consisting of knowledge and skills, ethnological sources should be given similar attention just as archaeological and literary sources. This approach creates the setting for examining ancient dance traditions in an archaeological perspective. The citation of literary and archaeological sources should be noted with much care in exploring the ancient dance traditions of Sri Lanka. It has been observed that revealing the dancing traditions of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa periods through archaeological sources is a complicated process. The key intention of the present study is to recognise the style of dancing during the Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa periods. The research is based on reliable evidence collected primarily from archaeological sources and a standard theoretical framework of dance as well. It has been observed that there had been an indigenous dance tradition among the native Sri Lankans by the time the Indian dance traditions were introduced. Yet, it has ceased to prevail as an unadulterated tradition since the latter half of the Anuradhapura period. This cultural change is a consequence of the severe Indian influence of the contemporary days. Although the abundance of male dancers has been observed during the early half of the Anuradhapura period, a clear and gradual enhancement of the number female dancers can be observed towards its latter half. This change which has been initiated during the Polonnaruwa period can be explicitly seen during the Yapahuwa period. Sri Lankan dancing culture has been directly affected by the religious aspects of the cultural impact of India. It was revealed in this study that the postures of the dancers alone exhibit the style and the identity of the dance rather than their costumes and musical instruments. Accordingly, it can be stated in conclusion that there had been an indigenous dancing style in ancient Sri Lanka that had later submerged itself due to the severe impact of Indian dancing styles.

Keywords: *Historical dance, Indigenous dance, Indian dance, Anuradhapura period, Polonnaruwa period*

Cultural landscape of Middle Yan Oya basin

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Middle Yan Oya basin is situated in the Horowpothana divisional secretariat in the North Central Province, Sri Lanka. The origin of human settlement and techno cultural transformation took place during pre-historic, proto historic and early historic periods surrounding this Basin. The objective of this research is to explore the human settlement in Middle Yan Oya Basin. This research is based on a field survey and primary and secondary sources. Quartz flakes, which are used to make stone implements, have been found in Vavullena, situated in Kokabe area in the Middle Yan Oya Basin. Besides, some pre-historic evidences have been found inside a cave in Sangilimalay Mountain Close To Kokabe. The first settlement started with the settlement pattern of Mesolithic age of humans and later, the cultural landscape of Middle Yan Oya Basin started with the people who were engaged in iron technology during the proto-historic period. Related to this period, many burials have been reported in places such as Thammenna Godella, Kokabe, Valaha Vidda Wewa, Gurugalhenna, Wadiga Wewa, ThibiriWewa, Olu Wewa and Galadakatuwa. During the research, among these burials Cist, Chairn cercle, Menhir and Alignment types of burials have been found. This landscape was built after 500 B.C (since 2500 years till now) and primary villages, animal taming and multi-resources sustainable pattern had been in practice. Definite social construction can be identified in Middle Yan Oya Basin in the early historic period, after 300 B.C According to an early Brahmi inscription, people who were engaged in different industries and employment such as Raja, Parumaka and Gamani (administration) , Kabara (iron smith), Thopasha (tin smith), Thabakara (copper smith) have built the cultural landscape of this valley. Later, cultural transformation in this Basin has been taking place until the medieval and post-historical periods. This research has been carried out to investigate the origin of human settlement in Middle Yan Oya Basin with the help of archaeological and documented information. The findings concluded that since pre-historic, proto historic, early historic and medieval period, the human settlements have been established throughout the basin.

An intelligent land assessment tool for the recognition of cultural heritage in Archaeological sites: A case study

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During the past twenty years, Archaeologists have been discussing the potentials of expert systems. Single land use allocation models are characterized by their combinatorial nature and the consideration of conflicting objectives. The land use methods which are cultural and environmentally appropriate are determined first and foremost by the characteristics and location. This is because land selection criteria are very personal and there is no theory behind how it should be done. Sometimes, there are too many redundancies in the process of the selection of land. Further, functional and social parameters describe significant evidence of cultural heritage.

In this paper, I present an intelligent land assessment tool in a sub field of architecture, the domain of land selection, to come up with land classifications in terms of physical, functional and social events. At the initial stage, commonsense knowledge in land selection is converted into a questionnaire. Removing dependencies among the questions is modeled using principal component analysis. Classification of the knowledge is processed through the fuzzy logic module, which is constructed on the basis of principal components. Further, explanations of classified knowledge are derived from the expert system technology. The tool was tested in 10 sites of varying cognitive abilities and diagnoses the cultural heritage. The questionnaire has been constructed with 31 questions and the principal component analyser detected nine principal components in the filtering process.

According to historical facts, the Velgam Rajamaha Viharaya, Trincomalee was built by king Devanampiyathissa. The temple was worshiped by both Sinhala and Tamil Buddhists. That is one of the reasons why Velgam Vihara was not destroyed by south Indian Chola invasions in the 10th century. This temple was abandoned after Anuradapura and Polonnaruwa kingdoms, because people migrated to the southern part of the country. Some renovations are happening nowadays and this will be popular among the devotees coming from the other parts of Sri Lanka. Unfortunately, there is no validated tool to assess its land usage for cultural recognition. This study was designed to address this deficiency. The tool scored Velgam Viharaya in terms of physical, functional and social aspects as 4.04432 %, 60.79982 % and 35.15585 % respectively. This shows the significant contribution of functional and social parameters respectively. The intelligent land assessment tool exploits significant assessment for cultural heritage in *Velgam Rajamaha Viharaya* by validating functional and social parameters which describe significant evidence of cultural heritage. The tool facilitates an approach for land use methods in archaeological sites thus, enabling a holistic approach for the recognition of cultural heritage in archaeological sites.

Key words: *Land selection, Cultural recognition, Intelligent land assessment tool, Fuzzy logic*

History of accounting education in Sri Lanka: Time of ancient kingdoms to British rule

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Presently, Sri Lanka is considered as a gem for finance and accounting outsourcing mainly due to its vibrant pool of accountants, who stand amongst one of the world's highest per capita. The country's accounting education system plays a pivotal role in producing these professionals. It is, therefore, interesting to see the development of the accounting education system in the country. Hence, this paper investigates the history of accounting education in Sri Lanka from the time of its ancient kingdoms (from 543 BC to 1815) and subsequently to the British rule (1796 – 1948). The archival method was used for collecting data. The main data sources included various documents that provided material and discussions about the education systems of the ancient Sri Lanka (such as institutional and author publications, sessional papers, administration reports and journal articles), several other historical records that provided corroborative evidence [such as *Mahavansa*, *Atuwa Grantha* (e.g. *Sammohavinodani Atuwawa*), *Sandesha Kawya* (e.g. *Gira Sandeshaya*), *Saddharmarathnawaliya*], and the translations of inscriptions.

Despite the indications of the existence of accountancy education before the introduction of Buddhism to the country, the evidence available to the provision of education in general, the accounting education in particular, is very limited. After the establishment of Buddhism in the 3rd Century BC, there are some evidences of accounting practice and accounting education in the country. Accountancy had been one of the secular subjects, which had been taught in Pirivenas to prepare lay students for a profession or occupation. Existence of persons responsible for accounting in the royal palace or treasury known as *Ganaka* and *Poththakin* [පොතොත්තකින්] provides the evidence of inclusion of accountancy as a subject area in the higher education for laymen. It can also be identified that the (accounting) education system of this period has been influenced by the ancient Indian treatise, Kautilya's Arthashastra. However, this indigenous system of education prevalent in the ancient kingdoms diminished with the foreign occupation of the country. During the colonial periods, especially during the British rule, an administrative and operational framework for the plantation companies was established. This, in turn, created a demand for public practice in accounting, auditing, and taxation by the Sri Lankan business organizations. Accounting related professional and technical courses (e.g. book keeping) had been emerged to cater the job market requirements. In addition, accounting/book keeping was formally introduced to the school curriculum during the latter part of the British era. Even today, the accounting education system evolved in the British period, still continues with some subsequent reforms made in the post-independence era. Hence, the present system of accounting education in Sri Lanka has its main roots linked to the British rule in the country.

Keywords: *Accountants, Accounting education, British rule, Buddhist education, History of education, Sri Lanka.*

Fish in Vedda culture

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Archaeological excavations have disclosed nine species of fish from rock shelter sediments that confirm the consumption of freshwater fish by the prehistoric man in Sri Lanka 40,000 years ago. Modern-day descendants of those earliest inhabitants or hunter-gatherers are called as Veddah and they are now limited to certain areas of the Island. However, they do not live any more in the forest as true Veddahs but live as modern Veddahs in the villages in houses constructed with general infrastructure facilities and electricity. The present study was carried out to obtain the ichthyologic knowledge possessed by the modern Veddahs living in Rathugala and Dambana villages in Sri Lanka. Two of the Veddahs; the chieftain of Rathugala village and his assistant contributed with their practical knowledge for this study. During an annual cycle (January 2010 to March 2011) around each full moon day for consecutive 10 times, the research team spent 2-3 days in the Rathugala forest, observing their life style. Totally 45 days were spent in the forest with the Veddahs. Fishing was done in two different seasons; in late June while pools are still running and connected to each other and in late July, when pools are isolated. Ichthyo-toxic plant materials were used in fishing in pools while a long knife (18 inches) was used in fish cutting at the margins of wading streams. Individuals caught were identified, counted and measured for their total lengths, and preparation for cooking was observed. Nine species of plants are known to use for stupefying fish in pools, out of them four species were used in this study. Pools which are not isolated are not suitable for fishing according to the Veddahs and therefore, fishing is done only in isolated pools. In total, 19 fish species were recorded and 15 vernacular names were collected. Fishing with ichthyo-toxic plants performed by Veddahs may not be considered as a detrimental act. Veddah's fishing season is aligning together with drying up of the riverbed; actual fishing is done at the onset of the destruction of the fish assemblage due to the discontinuation of the water flow to the pool. It is disclosed that those individuals who withstand the toxicity remains till the next rain and breed and proliferate.

Alternative Archaeology: Socio political impacts and ideas for looking into history in a Sri Lankan way

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Alternative or “other archaeologies’ or alternative interpretations offered in past such as, lost civilizations, alien knowledge, lost knowledge, lost worlds as Atlantis or the past that is not backed by archaeological evidence are spreading much faster and with more popularity than the archaeology and history backed by the evidence and logic. In Sri Lanka, as well, there are many versions of interpretations of history that have caught the public interest more than the ‘officially’ accepted versions of history backed by archaeological evidence. These ideas usually have an impact upon the current socio-political context in a community. The ethnic implications they give rise to and the interpretations given to the accepted archaeological interpretations have the desire to both, fuel tension between ethnicities and to lose faith in real archaeology and history.

Ascertaining the alternative versions of history out there in Sri Lanka and examining and establishing their impact and implications on archaeology and the society is the purpose of this paper. The foundation for the research was the vast literature on Alternative archaeology in the world. Based on experience and similar situations throughout the world, the similarities and differences were drawn with the help of the data collected in relation to Sri Lankan archaeology. The data were collected from interviews with the archaeologists, academics, the public, as well as the individuals and the organizations who hold different views, and from examining the related incidents. The data were then analyzed and compared with the known studied situations to draw conclusions and to understand exact status quo in Sri Lankan archaeology.

The research findings reveal the other views of history and their impact upon society and archaeology. These views vary from the concept of a civilization that distributed knowledge to the whole world. The use of these views by some has contributed to ethnic superiority and tensions as well. The time has come to look at history and archaeology in differently in the context of the practiced westernized methods and presuppositions; how will archaeology manage the ‘truth’ the archaeologists present with these popular alternatives? and, should archaeology reject these ideas without considering them at all and how? are some questions that need answers.

Keywords: *Archaeologies, Alternative, Ethnicities, Evidence, Society*

Linguistics and Language Studies

An investigation of the factors that cause Language Anxiety in ESL/EFL learners while acquiring speaking skills

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Language anxiety is a ubiquitous phenomenon known to have a debilitating effect on the oral performance of speakers of English as a second language. The widespread use of English as a global link language has increased the demand for good communication skills, but the existence of such feelings of anxiety in learners may prevent them from achieving the desired goal. The dearth of research on this topic in Sri Lanka, especially among secondary school learners, motivated the researcher to fill this “gap” in literature, which seems to be of pedagogical value to help learners reduce their anxiety while speaking in the classroom. This study examines the factors that give rise to language anxiety, considering negative evaluation by the teachers and peers, classroom activities that trigger such feelings, and manifestation of anxiety in learners. The linguistic background of the learners and the exposure to English through media and other sources were also scrutinized. Strategies to deal with anxiety, as suggested by the respondents have been recommended.

This investigation involved sixty female students, studying in the Advanced Level classes, from a Sinhala Medium National school in Colombo. The Foreign Language Classroom Anxiety Scale (FLCAS) developed by Horwitz, Horwitz and Cope (1986), was adapted as a quantitative research tool. In order to triangulate the data, a focus group discussion was also conducted in the students’ mother tongue, Sinhala. The linguistic and parental background of the learners were also investigated through the questionnaire. The data was analyzed using the SPSS 20.0 version. The fear of negative evaluation by teachers and peers, which trigger anxiety within students in the English language classroom, was analyzed. Types of classroom activities that give rise to communication apprehension in learners and also the ways in which English language anxiety manifests in learners, were analyzed. Then, Spearman’s rank-order correlation was run to determine the relationship between teacher factors and peer factors, teacher factors and classroom activities and teacher factors and the ways in which anxiety is manifested in learners. The responses obtained at the focus group discussion were analyzed and linked and compared with the qualitative data analysis to triangulate the data. The findings of this investigation reveal that anxiety plays a debilitating role in the acquisition of speaking skills of Sri Lankan learners. Fear of negative evaluation by the teachers and peers is a major source of triggering anxiety among learners. Among classroom activities, impromptu speeches in front of the class and answering questions orally in English, trigger higher level of anxiety. It was found that a majority of the population fears that they will forget words and how to say something in English and also their hearts start beating rapidly, a manifestation of physiological distress. The research concludes by suggesting recommendations for reducing anxiety in the Sri Lankan L2 teaching –learning context, especially at secondary school level.

Keywords: *Anxiety, Second/ foreign language learning anxiety*

Language and poetics: An investigative study from a Sanskrit perspective

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The language, which has been accepted as the tool of everything by some modern scholars, holds an unrivalled position in the human society as well as more differently in the animal world. Because of this status of language, man can never surpass the power of language and live without a language. However, adequate evidence of early literary works by Indian scholars has proved the importance of language for many types of communication. As a result of understanding the greatness of the language, it has been given the place of the God by ancient people in India. This paper attempts to find the place of language in poetic creations by paying attention to Sanskrit rhetorical works. Mix method was used to make this study more effective.

Sanskrit rhetoricians are much aware of language while they recommend poetic theory such as Alaṅkāra, Guṇa, Rīti, Rasa, Dhvani, Vakrokti and Aucitya. Moreover, each teacher of various theoretical traditions of Sanskrit poetics has started their work after mentioning the importance or characteristics of the language with several verses. In addition to that, the base of their theories has been concerned with the language. Therefore, the ways of using rhetorical features in poetry mean using the language in accordance with rhetoric theories. This also emphasises the importance of the language for poetic theories. According to the Sanskrit scholars of poetics, the theoretical aspects of poetry depend on language. Sanskrit rhetoricians such as Daṇḍin, Ānandavardhana, Kuntaka, Mammata and Viśvanātha have given enough interpretations for the linguistic features of the language that help to compose poetic works and its criticism. Moreover, what type of place has been given to language when Sanskrit critics compose their theory can be known through a deep and critical study on theoretical works of poetry. Furthermore, a researcher can question or study comparatively the features of theoretical works of Sanskrit poetics and non-Sanskrit theories.

Keywords: *Language, Poetics, Sanskrit, Theories, Criticism*

A linguistic analysis of academic discourse on English in Sri Lanka: A Systemic Functional Approach

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Due to the historical ramifications of the colonial past and the capitalist ideals of the neoliberal present, English continues to occupy a complex liminal space in the contemporary Sri Lankan society. It is an in-between space(s) where the present merges with the past, the powerful merges with the powerless, the coloniser merges with the colonised and so on. Academia as the main intellectual construct of a society is given the task of probing and reaffirming the alignment of these liminal spaces and the mavericks that occupy them to any of the meta-narratives that have precedence over their competitors at the moment by means of any twist of logic. Hence, the analysis of academic discourse on English in Sri Lanka stands to reveal the meta-narratives that vie for honour of providing at least a partial explanation of peculiarities of English in Sri Lanka. This study uses a combination of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) to analyse three selected articles from the *University of Ceylon Review*, which is one of the oldest academic journals in Sri Lanka. The articles were selected based on the criteria that they deal with various sociolinguistic aspects of English usage in Sri Lanka and contain insights into the reception for English in various strata of the Sri Lankan society. Within the CDA framework professed by Norman Fairclough, SFL tools such as genre analysis, transitivity analysis and register analysis were used for the study. The analysis revealed that the selection of genres, transitivity and registers, was in line with meta-narratives which reinforce the rationality of the essentialism of English. Although the logic employed differs to varying degrees between the arguments, postulations inevitably direct to a similar underlying conclusion that endows English with power, prestige and future.

Keywords: *English in Sri Lanka, Sri Lankan Academia, Critical Discourse Analysis, Systemic Functional Linguistics*

“Kuppi”, “koku” and “kaakko”: An exploration of the linguistic and ideological significance of contemporary campus slang

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Universities and university students have long been a fertile source of slang, which can be defined as an informal variety of language comprising words and expressions used by a particular social group. Research in campus slang has a long history (see for example Mcphee 1927, Kannerstein 1967, Olesen and Whittaker 1968, Kutner and Brogan 1974, Hancock 1990, Murray 1991, Hummon 1994, Thorne 2005, Preece 2009, Adamo 2013). Many of these studies present word lists and linguistic analyses of these unique lexical items that reflect the academic, social, and personal experiences of student life. Studies of campus slang conducted in American and British universities also indicate several similarities as well as significant differences in the spread and functions of campus slang in Sri Lanka. This, along with the fact that the slang of Sri Lankan university students has not been the focus of much research, provided the rationale for the current study. Examples of slang were obtained from multiple participants at a university in the western province to develop an initial wordlist. A linguistic analysis of each term was then conducted by identifying their morphological features and semantic categories. Reflexive texts written by selected student participants were also obtained to analyse their experiences of encountering, learning, and using campus slang. The analysis of this overall data was located in the theoretical framework of linguistic ideology, or the linguistic behaviours that not only characterize a particular social group but also language practices that aim to legitimise dominant political powers. The study concludes that there are significant ideological implications in the usage, function, and spread of the slang of the socio-politically complex discourse community of Sri Lankan university students.

Keywords: *University slang, Reflexive texts, Ideological implications*

Impact of reciprocal peer-feedback on English as Second Language Learning

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Writing is a system of interpersonal communication, and plays a fundamental role in our personal and professional lives. In academia, writing becomes central as a measure of academic success. Feedback is a key element and a dominant teaching-learning tool in language learning. It is significant to second language teachers in English. With the shift from grammar-translation method to communicative method, teachers' role as a feedback provider has changed in the modern era. With such a change, student-oriented techniques in error correction such as peer-correction and self-correction emerged. This kind of practice offers an alternative way of grasping various concepts in writing. The involvement of peers in the correction process makes the classroom atmosphere supportive and learner-friendly. As a correction technique, peer-feedback has positive effects on classroom dynamics. Reciprocal peer-feedback gives emphasis on learning, and contributes to the peer's learning simultaneously. This re-examines the reciprocal peer-feedback in terms of its suitability as a classroom technique for writing lessons particularly in tertiary level education. The objective of this study is to shed light on the impacts of integrating peer-feedback into writing in the tertiary level ESL curriculum. To achieve this objective, data were collected from forty first year students of the Science Faculty, University of Jaffna. A quantitative analytical comparative methodology was utilized. It was performed in a three-phased, two months long project. A language proficiency test was conducted before participants were assigned to groups. At first this study investigated students' initial perception on peer-feedback through semi-structured questionnaires and individual interviews, and it was found that learner perception is negative. The second phase deals with the experimental group which received peer-feedback and the control group which received teacher feedback only. Three structured three semi-structured and four open-ended writing tasks were given to both the groups by the same teacher within the duration of 60 days. The final phase of the project was a comparative study consisting of pre and post tests to measure the progress of students' writing. Tests were evaluated and findings were made on the results received based on the usage of punctuation, well-formed grammar patterns, correct spelling, style of writing, content-based writing, organizational pattern, critical thinking, confidence and so on. Members of the experimental group outperformed the controlled group in each and every criterion investigated. It can be concluded that the effect of peer-feedback on students' performance was profound, since the experimental group could achieve the peak competency level. As revealed in a post study survey and questionnaires, students were highly impressed and expressed their willingness to have more similar sessions in the future. Therefore, this study recommends that education policy makers and ESL lecturers in universities should concentrate more on the implementation of peer-feedback sessions in ESL writing lessons.

Keywords: *Peer-feedback, Second language learning, Writing skills*

The role of Linguistics in language teaching

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Language, the most precious single possession of the human race, has been the subject of study and serious enquiry for about two thousand years. However, a detailed analysis and study of its various aspects, such as grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation, is of a recent origin, and can be said to date back to a time not earlier than the closing years of the 18th century. With the growing interest in the study of language, a new branch of scientific knowledge and research came into existence, which concentrated on the systematic analysis of language. It was named Linguistics, which can be defined as a branch of knowledge consisting of a scientific study of language. Human speech and language aspects such as the nature, organization, structure, units and development of language are examined in linguistics. This paper is an attempt to mark the role of linguistics in language teaching, especially English, with a view to understanding the unique relationship between language and linguistics profoundly and to create an intense awareness that the conceptual knowledge of language should be an important concern for educators seeking to develop minds of the future citizens of society.

Keywords: *Language, Linguistics, Teaching*

Culture specific text as an effective reading material for the acquisition of English language: A case study

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College and university teachers of communication and language skills require good communication skills to develop an effective student–teacher relationship. Ahmedabad, located in the western state of Gujarat, India is a Mega City with all the modern amenities and elite higher education institutes. Therefore, many students migrate to the city from different parts of the state in order to pursue higher education. Migrating from the farthest parts of the regions of Saurashtra and other, they settle in Ahmedabad to pursue their graduate and post-graduate studies in colleges affiliated to Gujarat University of Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

The present paper attempts to analyse the problems of English language teaching and deals with the difficulties faced by the students of the region of Saurashtra which is a culturally different region with its unique culture and identity. The paper deals with the problems faced by these students in acquiring the skills of English language and communication when they seek to commence education in City C U Shah Commerce College, situated in the Lal Darwaja area of Ahmedabad. Separate remedial lectures are taken as these students have taken their school education through the vernacular language and they move directly to the English medium division. But, due to the general content of the passages for comprehension, they were found to be inadequate for the acquisition of English language for these students who have crossed the 'critical period' of language acquisition and hence they should be treated as adult learners. For these students, separate translated paragraphs of the stories specific to their region were introduced, which were found to be effective and useful as the level of comprehension increased. The present paper deals with such a project wherein such culture specific material is used for the purpose of acquisition of English language in City C U Shah Commerce College.

Keywords: *Communication skills, English language teaching, Error analysis studies*

Transformation for empowerment through the teaching of the English Language

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In keeping with the theme 'Transformation for Empowerment: Moving beyond Buzzwords', this paper endeavors to examine how transformation for empowerment in the study and teaching of English as a second language could be effected, moving beyond the buzzwords.

English is taught widely as a second language in developing countries. Tried and tested methods of instruction have been used through the years, culminating in the current eclectic and student centered-approach. Yet, teaching English as a second language remains simply an academic activity. In this country, social, educational and economic policies have constrained the learning of English as a second language to a great extent. The learners are given only the basics and not the embellishments of the language which remain grey areas and do not help them to comprehend the nuances used by native speakers. At the end of the day, an individual, traditionally disenfranchised by public education, emerges with a smattering of knowledge, and a chip on his shoulder at not having been empowered to fit into the higher echelons of the English speaking world.

This paper proposes to look into how much research has been carried out to provide this much coveted 'empowerment' – what conclusions were arrived at through the analysis of statistics of performance, commitment and interest of the learner, or quality of books, to name a few examples. It will also explore what research has revealed about using technology, enabling teachers to integrate the latest English language teaching approaches and techniques, so they can effectively help increase the proficiency of learners and empower them to face the challenges of the world outside the classroom. It will also explore how their self-esteem and critical thinking could be increased, leading them to the awareness of political and sociocultural issues and the desire to make social changes – ways that empower them. In conclusion, this paper will consider how, with the research conclusions, transformation could be brought about from the old methods to the new, with language courses carefully planned, the selection of appropriate materials and learning activities with the total collaboration of all concerned parties, thus empowering the learner.

Keywords: *English language teaching approaches, Empowerment, Buzzwords*

Teaching styles: Teachers of teaching English as a second language in Sri Lanka

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Teaching styles have been defined by many: Heimlich and Norland (2002) define teaching styles as “behaviours or actions that teachers exhibit in the learning exchange. Teaching behaviours reflect beliefs and values that teachers hold about the learner’s role in the exchange.” Quirk (1994) who focused on teaching styles related to the health profession has identified four different teaching styles as assertive, suggestive, collaborative, and facilitative. Grasha (1996), a psychologist identified five teaching styles: authoritative, demonstrator, facilitator, delegator, and blended style. Pratt (2002) has presented five perspectives on teaching: transmission, development, apprentice, nurturing and social reform. In this study, different teaching styles practiced in diverse teaching contexts in Sri Lanka are studied. A sample of fifteen government teachers from three different teaching contexts representing primary, secondary and tertiary levels was recruited for the study. First, a questionnaire was administered to find the teachers’ own views concerning their teaching styles and then classroom observation of three lessons of each teacher was carried out using an observation schedule. The results of the questionnaires provided information to find out different teaching styles of different teachers. There is an immense difference between what teachers thought about their own teaching styles and what they practically did in the classroom. The study shows that Sri Lankan teachers integrate different teaching styles depending on the differences in attitudes, leaning contexts, educational qualifications, professional training and institutional and learner differences in order to maximise learner autonomy in different learning contexts. However, focusing only on five teachers from each teaching context and observing three lessons of a teacher are two main limitations of this study. The influence of students’ social and economic backgrounds was ignored. Lack of attention to teaching learning facilities in each teaching context and focusing only on Grasha’s theory of teaching styles also affected the study to a greater extent.

The place of fluency and accuracy in English speech production: A correlational study conducted among the undergraduates who learn English as a second language

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Fluency and accuracy are often recognised as two primary indicators in assessing competency of English speech in the field of teaching English as a second language (ESL). Moreover, they are among the key parameters of assessing overall speech competency in standard tests; IELTS and TOEFEL. Fluency is marked by speed and continuity as opposed to awkward pauses and hesitation in the production of speech. (Brumfit, 1984; Fillmore, 1979). Accuracy on the other hand is characterised by the ability to produce grammatically correct sentences in speech production. (Richards et al, 1985).

Despite fluency being identified as a characteristic of high competency in English speaking skills, the educationists in ESL contexts including Sri Lanka emphasise on a higher level of accuracy in traditional speech practice. However, this leads to the ambiguity, if attaining a higher level of fluency together with a similar level of accuracy is realistic, in the natural production of speech. Hence, the research seeks to explore the relationship between fluency and accuracy in order to determine their place in English speech production and shed light on the above controversy. The primary objective is to determine if the learners who are competent in English speaking skills manage to maintain both a high level of fluency and accuracy. In the conduct of the study it was hypothesised that the learners who have a good overall competency in speaking English are fluent speakers.

Speech test marks of forty undergraduates who learn English as a second language were used for the study. Here, students were assessed based on fluency and coherence, lexical resources, grammatical accuracy and range and pronunciation. The evaluation criteria were designed taking IELTS speech assessment as a model test and rubrics for assessing each component; fluency, accuracy were also used. The students whose marks were selected for the study had managed to score a high overall mark ($\geq 75\%$) in the test and thus they were identified competent in their English speaking skills compared to the other students tested. As the next step, the marks they had scored for fluency and coherence were correlated using Pearson measures with their marks for grammatical accuracy and range. A correlation coefficient value of $(r) = 0.3344$ which is a marginally moderate positive co-relation between the variables was detected. Thus, based on the statistical findings it is revealed that the association between fluency and accuracy in English speech production is rather moderate than remarkably high. Accordingly, it is suggested that in the field of ESL, the educators should focus more on practical aspects of communication like fluency rather than flawless, prescriptive grammar which deviates the speech practice from the way natural communication takes place.

Keywords: *Fluency, Accuracy, Speaking skills, English as a second language*

L2 motivational Self-system Theory: L2 motivational levels in Sri Lankan learning context

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Researchers have paid a lot of interest to motivation as one of the significant factors in second language learning. Dörnyei (2009) identifies that L2 motivational selfsystem is made up of three components: Ideal L2 self, Ought-to-L2 self and L2 Learning experience. This study is based on Dörnyei's L2 Motivational Self-System and analyses a language learner's L2 motivational levels in terms of their ideal L2 selves, ought to L2 selves and L2 learning experience demonstrating the relationship between various factors and their influence on each other and the L2 motivational system as a whole. Learning a second language is quite common in multi-cultural Sri Lanka. The study investigated 50 students with a lower proficiency level in English in Advanced Level classes in government schools. Selected students come from families with a minimum exposure to English. This study uses quantitative data collected from a questionnaire given in their mother tongue. The answers depict that certain societal factors motivate students to learn the target L2. Parents, social environment, and the beliefs of students related to social recognition motivate the students to learn the target L2. Yet, the influence of their close friends does not seem to motivate the target group. The majority of students seem to have an inner desire to learn the L2 implying inner motivation: Ideal L2 self. Yet, they do not know how to motivate themselves through close friends (Ought to L2 self) and learning contexts (L2 learning experience) which is where teachers should play a main role in order to maximize the impact of teaching the L2.

Pragmatics based language teaching: A case study of the DETE Course, English
Extension Courses, University of Colombo

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Theories of language teaching have been consistently influenced by Linguistics and its subfields. *Instructional pragmatics* which focuses on the practical application of pragmatic competence in a classroom setting (Vasquez and Sharpless, 2009) has become the most recent focus. Consequently, higher education institutes and universities throughout the world are re-designing their curricula to keep abreast with this development. However, in the Sri Lankan context, the importance applied to pragmatics-informed language instruction for adult ESL classes and teacher education is still at its infancy.

The aims of this research are, therefore, threefold: (i) to revisit the pertinent literature on pragmatic competence and its practical application in pedagogy as well as to outline the theoretical underpinnings of the study; (ii) to review students' and teacher educators' perception (Diploma in English for Teachers of English (DETE II), English Extension Courses, University of Colombo) of the approach and methods adopted in teaching and learning of oral communication in the previous course syllabus; (iii) to outline the course revisions that were incorporated into the syllabus and to report on the outcome of those changes, thereby, making a case for a more pragmatic-informed pedagogical approach to teaching oral communication at the university level.

Thus, a descriptive research design was employed, in which, informal interview data, informal written feedback as well as two questionnaires (for the pre-course revision evaluation and another for the new revisions) were administered to a sample of 80 participants (students of DETE II) who belong to various socioeconomic backgrounds on a random sampling technique in which only their 'availability' and 'cooperation' were considered. The new course revisions were largely premised on the 'cultural script model' suggested by Wierzbicka (1994) and Muller's (1981) 'cultural isomorphism model'. The results revealed that some of the materials in the previous course syllabus lacked pragmatically-relevant and culture-specific lessons and exercises that enabled the students to yield the maximum benefit out of them, resulting in the lack of enthusiasm, uncooperative and passive student participation in class. On the other hand, the responses received on the new course revisions remained highly positive which testified to the extent of the impact made by the revised material among the students and teachers indicating that the implications from this study are far-reaching and significant.

Keywords: *Pragmatics, Second Language Acquisition, Intercultural Education, Teacher education*

Post-method pedagogy; reality or fallacy in enhancing teacher and student growth: Special focus on higher education in Sri Lanka

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Even though varied methods are employed in English Language Teaching (ELT) contexts, it is found that these methodological frameworks, with their limited scope have been incapable of enhancing the teacher and the student growth. As a result, Post method pedagogy emerged as an alternative to the concept of method and method-based pedagogy consists of so many limitations. A post method concept conceptualised by Kumaravadivelu basically focuses on the learner interest, learner investment and the professional growth of the teachers in ESL teaching and learning contexts. Stern's three-dimensional framework and Kumaravadivelu's Macrostrategic framework drawn from "theoretical, empirical and experiential knowledge" (Kumaravadivelu, 2006, p. 185) are the main concepts included in the post method pedagogy. It prioritises teachers' potentials by accentuating their experiences underestimated in the implementation of existing methods as teachers, parents/caretakers and students (Prabhu, 1990). The knowledge of the existing methods, and the experiences and the frameworks the teachers have acquired and built can be exploited to construct their own methods and thus, they can act as evaluators, observers, critical thinkers, theorists and practitioners. Post-method pedagogy is crucial for teacher growth since it involves teachers constructing "classroom-oriented" theories of practice (Kumaravadivelu, 1994, p. 29) This, in turn, makes them valuable sources for prospective teachers and their colleagues leading to professional growth (Kumaravadivelu, 2006). Apart from the teacher growth, learner growth is expected to heighten by focusing on the learners' interest and the learner investment. Taking charge has mostly meant teachers giving learners a set of cognitive, meta cognitive, and effective techniques that they can use for successful learning have been found useful in making learners more active participants in their language learning while at the same time making teachers more sensitive to learner diversity and learning difficulties. (Kumaravadivelu, 2001). Mix method approach was used to gather both quantitative and qualitative data related to conventional methods and perceptions of the teachers and students. An action research was conducted to test whether post method pedagogy can empower the professional academic growth and students' intellectual growth.

The present critical paper is therefore written in an attempt to see whether post method pedagogy is fully capable of building the professional growth of the teachers in the ESL contexts of higher education in Sri Lanka. The author concludes that post method pedagogy when applied effectively, allows to enhance the teacher and student growth which is one of the ultimate objectives of the pedagogy.

Keywords: *Post method pedagogy, Three-dimensional framework, Macro-strategic framework, ESL contexts*

A study of lexis in Sri Lankan English
(With special emphasis on the selected literary texts in English)

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With the spread of the English language all over the world, English has developed as a transplanted language in many contexts. With this development, there was a gradual recognition of language identities and hence, new varieties of English have increasingly evolved and they have been acknowledged. Among these varieties, Sri Lankan English (SLE) plays a significant role being specific only to Sri Lanka. Since there are no equivalents in native English to express its realities in the Sri Lankan context, a collection of words known as lexis is created. Thus, the writers of SLE tend to use lexis in their writings to express their own cultural and environmental realities. The main objectives of this study are to identify different kinds of lexis, to examine the characteristics of SLE in written English and to understand the effectiveness of lexis. The novels: *The Sandglass* by Romesh Gunasekera, *The Waiting Earth* by Punyakante Wijenaikie and short stories: *The Doughty Men of Purantota* by James Goonewardene, *Action and Reaction* by Chitra Fernando were selected to achieve the above objectives. Then, the lexis used in them were identified and categorised into lexical fields. The semi-structured interview method was employed with a sample of fifteen G.C.E Ordinary Level and G.C.E Advanced Level teachers who teach English literature in order to obtain primary data to investigate the effectiveness of the use of lexis. The study revealed that lexis in SLE best portray the exact cultural implications of given concepts and are easily understood by Sri Lankans whereas non-Sri Lankans get perplexed with those words. In order to make them understand, it is suggested that Sri Lankan writers in English should provide their meanings separately using footnotes and glossaries. Thus, the lexis used in selected texts for their pragmatic and rhetorical effects on the local and international readers contribute to the shaping of SLE as a variety. Hence, it is effective to use lexis in literary genres in order to depict the authenticity of Sri Lankan culture and environment.

Keywords: *Lexis, Sri Lankan English, Literary works, Culture*

Impacts of target audience culture on the translation of dramatic texts

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Culture is defined as the ideas, customs and social behaviour of a particular society. Culture is the major underlying factor which shapes activities of human beings. This paper is focused on the way that the culture of the target audience functions as a key factor which shapes the translation of dramatic texts. The intention of a literary translation is to affect the target audience in the same way that the original may be supposed to have affected its first hearers. Since the two languages (source language and target language) and their respective cultures are not exactly the same, the translator has to compromise between them in order to bring to his audience the best entertainment possible, not going too far away from the source text. In this study, data was collected from a comparison of selected English dramatic texts and their Sinhalese translations. When available, opinions expressed by the dramatic text translators have also been used in order to understand the mind-set of a translator and the way he responds when he has to compromise between the cultures of the original text and the target audience. It was observed that even though the translators have preferred to maintain the themes of the original text, a direct translation method has not always been followed and sense-for-sense translation has been preferred. Omitting, adding and replacing certain elements to make the text suitable and comprehensible for the target audience can be seen constantly throughout the translations. In research conducted in Sri Lanka related to translation studies, the role of culture is contracted into 'cultural words', stating that certain words which are limited to a certain culture create problems in translation. This study discusses this issue in a different perspective, showing that culture itself is the underlying factor which shapes translation of dramatic texts. In this respect, it is vital that a translator has a profound understanding of the cultural differences between the first audience and the target audience.

Keywords: *Translation, Dramatic texts, Culture, Omission, Addition, Replacement*

Second Life: A transformative tool for educational empowerment

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Since Maria Montessori and her theories and practices on experiential learning, an *n* number of educational theories and practices have been propounded; a sprinkling of which are – Cognitive psychology, Situated cognition, Contextualized teaching, Collaborative learning, Constructivist theories, Vygotsky's theory, Situative learning theories, Anchored instruction, Cognitive flexibility theory, Practice fields, Communities of Practice, Learners as apprentices, etc. All these and many more theories and concepts have been practiced in the delivery of education at various levels, places and times. However, one thing that has never happened or even dreamt of is the possibility of all these theories and practices being implemented in an integrated methodology. This possibility commenced with the advancement of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the post-modern 21st century. ICTs enabled the development of 3-Dimensional multimedia, which in turn spawned Virtual Reality on The Cloud creating Multi-User Virtual Environments (MUVES). 'Second Life' (SL) is an MUVE in the public domain, which anyone with a fast processing computer with a high RAM capacity and superior graphics display, and a broadband connection can log on to the URL – www.secondlife.com and enter this virtual world. Virtual Reality which is immensely popular in gaming, facilitates creation of real life simulations which can provide immersive and compelling educational and training experiences. Simulations are widely used for training in aviation and space programs and are considered a high-end educational methodology. MUVES like SL are uniquely situated media for developing roleplaying scenarios (simulations) to engage in immersive learning. It is a recorded fact that when the Ministers of Education from countries in the Asia Pacific Economic Council (APEC) met in 2004 to deliberate on providing equal opportunities and empowering youth, identified and listed skills that are essential for students of Higher Education. The first two skills are – 'Proficiency in English language' and 'Competence in the usage of Information and Communication Technologies'. Both these skills can be enhanced and the students of Higher Education can be empowered, when English Language Teaching is delivered through a Multi User Virtual Environment like Second Life. This paper discusses the need of using MUVES for educational delivery and methodologies for English Language Teaching and Learning through 'Second Life'.

An error analysis in essays of secondary school English language teachers in Gombe metropolis, Nigeria

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English language is one of the important subjects taught in Nigerian schools. Despite its vital role in Nigeria, there is a massive failure of students at examinations at the secondary school level today in the country. This study examined secondary school English language teachers' essays with the main objective of finding out the types of errors made in the essays. Further, it drew attention to the implications of the findings for improved teaching and learning of the language. The investigation covered capitalizations, punctuation marks, spellings, tenses and aspects of English language in the essays. The essay test was purposively administered to 144 secondary school English language teachers in randomly selected 74 secondary schools in Gombe metropolis. Percentage was used to answer the research questions raised; *t*-test was used to test the research hypotheses one, two, three and four, while research hypothesis five was tested by using One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) at 0.05 alpha level of significance to establish a difference that exists in making errors by the respondents. It was found that errors in the use of capitalization have the highest frequency of occurrence out of the whole errors recorded from the respondents' essays, while errors in the use of tenses have the lowest frequency of occurrence. The findings also reveal that there is no significant difference among the respondents in making errors in essays. The research suggests that more trained English language teachers should be recruited for the improvement of teaching and learning in schools.

Keywords: *Error analysis, Essays, English language teachers*

English language pedagogy for underprivileged undergraduate learners in the Gujarat State

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Though English was a colonial imposition in India, there is no denying the fact that it has immensely helped Indians for better job opportunities and upward mobility. Owing to the globalisation and its consequent escalating commercial and technological activities, even in the far flung areas of the country, English has irrevocably become the language of opportunities. The challenge the teachers of English face in India is how to make their learners competent in English keeping with the linguistic diversity of the multi-cultural country. It seems to be a daunting task for teachers of English to engage their learners, who come from varied backgrounds and are deprived of schooling and an adequate exposure to English, in the language tasks in comparatively larger classes. Students have a very low self-esteem and also feel intimidated in the educational institutions because of their language performances. When they go to cities for their graduation courses, they find the whole surrounding hostile. They find it difficult to share their feelings with their peers and teachers because of the fear of being ridiculed. In class, they are always found to underperform repeatedly while using English in seminars and group discussions. However, they somehow just manage to escape through, even when their performance in other subjects is commendable. These learners can be labeled as 'the underprivileged.' In an outsourced market driven economy, those who cannot use English are reduced to live largely through trivial jobs. These are the most vulnerable, and therefore, are the core of the underprivileged. Their problems are of low self-esteem, diminishing desire to learn, crippling fear to failure, poor achievement and motivation, lack of sustained efforts and passivity and so on.

Therefore, a case study has been undertaken to enhance learners' proficiency in English in the S.P.T. Arts & Science College, Godhra, Gujarat. This is an undergraduate college offering education in the vernacular medium and situated in the educationally backward area of Gujarat. This paper reports a case study, which will encourage the teachers of English across the sub-continent to take some initiatives keeping in mind their context of learning and appropriate learning styles. It also suggests that a committed & sensitive teacher can make the significant difference irrespective of indifferent attitudes of authorities. The study reinforces the point that all the pertinent issues related to these learners can be tackled from different angles only by the teacher. Therefore, the focus must be shifted to empowering the teacher who can make significant changes in the teaching learning process. For it, an enriched training programme (a combination of an affective, cognitive and behavioural process) is desperately needed which can possibly help the teacher to design his own learning process for his learners.

Keywords: *Underprivileged learners, English language pedagogy*

A study of recurrent grammatical errors in writing English among undergraduates

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Writing in English is a mode of written communication and it is an important part of academic writing at tertiary level. In the writing process, a student expresses his/her thoughts and ideas on a particular subject through words and sentences. There is a need to collect the facts and then organise them in an order before writing. Undergraduates need to send e-mails, submit research proposals and papers, and write essays, official letters, business letters, reports, minutes and projects. Having good writing skills in English helps students to gain good results in the university examinations and assignments. Students should pay attention to language elements such as vocabulary, grammatical structure, punctuation, and spellings, when they write. Lecturers have to develop students' writing skills useful for their current and future disciplines. Some mistakes in writing English frequently occur among undergraduates at the University of Jaffna both in examinations and assignments. The objective of this study was to find out the recurrent grammatical errors in writing and to analyse the errors with a view to understanding the errors and assisting to improve the students' writing skill and create more efficiency at tertiary level. The experimental part of the paper dealt with the recurrent grammatical errors in writing English among the undergraduates of the Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna. This study was based on qualitative and descriptive methodologies. The samples used in this study were collected from the assignment materials such as journal entries, reports, letters and minutes written by students of Humanities and Social Sciences in the Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna. This study investigated the most common grammatical mistakes found in the student writings and analysed them. Through this study, the researcher found out the constraints faced by the students when they were engaged in writing in English. The analysis explored the underlying reasons for these common errors which will contribute to the field of language teaching.

Keywords: *Recurrent grammatical errors, Writing skill, Constraints, Grammatical structure*

Literary and Cultural Studies

An analytical approach to the identity, image and survival of the character
'Ruth' in *Song of Solomon* by Tony Morrison

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The imperialistic intrusion, which produced a socio-cultural void within the core of the black identity, made the survival of the black remain as a social negation, thus excluding them from the defined social frame of the 'White.' Tony Morrison approaching this socio-political texture where conflicting relationships impede the social existence of the 'Black,' focuses on the feminine being whose identity is undermined through the encroachment of the imperialistic perspectives and the opinionated gender prejudices that permeate the mental structure of her own communal sphere. Thus, scrutinizing the constricted social space imposed upon the identity of the 'Black woman', this analytical paper has developed a critical exploration in relation to the character sketch of 'Ruth' observing her existence which surfaces amidst the post-colonial cultural and social manipulations and the intuitive struggles of her own psyche. Consequently a questioning approach has been applied concentrating on how the amalgamation of post-colonial realities of social, political, cultural and psychological domains interfere in the process of moulding and reproducing the identity of 'Ruth'. Specifically, in analyzing and elaborating the perspectives which are discussed within the research paper the theoretical perspectives of Edward Said (*Orientalism*), Gayatri Spivak ("Can the subaltern speak?"), Simon de Beauvoir (*The Second Sex*), Intersectionality theory by Kimberle Crenshaw, Theory of Womenism by Alice Walker, Frantz Fanon (*Black skin, White masks*) and Slavoj Zizek (*Looking Awry*) have been referred to with a thorough consideration. 'Ruth' as another victimized female figure who struggles for her existence has become both physiologically and psychologically fragile in front of the denial, which is socialized by the social and the ethnic other. Absence of the emotional, spiritual, social and material basis within her compressed inner self makes her social survival problematic and causes her to become incapable in grappling with the social realities and the directionless nature of her life. The portrayal of 'Ruth' prompts an argumentative approach towards the simultaneous oppressions that a Black woman has to encounter due to the class, colour and gender discrimination. Along with the social consequences, which erupted through the intensive racial polarization in the 1950's and 1960's, the black women were entrapped within the extreme racism and sexism questioning their validity of the independent existence. The *Song of Solomon* addressing the alienation and negation of the African-American identity within the domain of imperialistic prejudices and the racial segregation revolves around the role of 'Black woman' whose 'image' and 'self' have been compressed to be inconsequential. Thus, Tony Morrison adopting a feministic approach through the character 'Ruth' questions the racism, masculine domination and capitalism, which generate the subordination of the female.

Keywords: *Postcolonial identity, Feminine being, Social survival, Racial prejudices, Nihilism*

Cartoons: Stereotypes and beyond

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Animated cartoon is one of the most popular modes of entertainment among children and its impact on them is a current issue in discussion. The developmental intergroup theory (Bigler & Liben, 2007) postulates that children construct social stereotypes, gender stereotypes, prejudices and form social-group categories and bias, based on the input they receive through various mediums of exposure, including cartoons. However, the specific impact that cartoons have on children, when the cartoons are set in a different culture to their own, is still not adequately explored, particularly in relation to the Sri Lankan context. The current trend in Sri Lankan visual media, especially television channels, to dub imported cartoons in either Sinhala or Tamil, seems to create a disparity between the cultural orientations of our society and the cultural orientations of the countries where these cartoons are created. Thus, based on the developmental intergroup theory, this paper studies the role that stereotypes and prejudices in cartoons play in shaping the social and cultural identities of children in Sri Lanka. It attempts to explore how animated cartoons function as a microsystem that reinforces social and gender stereotypes and form prejudices and bias in the viewers. The sample consisted of two sets of data. The first set of data consisted of three cartoons broadcasted on local television channels, in the evenings, selected randomly for a period of one month. These videotaped cartoons were transcribed as authentic data for descriptive qualitative analysis. A content analysis of data was also carried out to determine the levels of stereotyped and counter-stereotyped content in the data and this analysis provides objectivity to the study. The second set of data was collected through the instrument of a questionnaire directed at the children (N= 50) who watch the selected cartoons regularly. This data was quantitatively analyzed using descriptive statistics. Findings of the study reveal that the majority (89 percent) of cartoons reinforce gender stereotypes and function as a dominant media that create prejudices and biases in children. Only 15 percent of data dealt with counter-stereotyped content and were unprejudiced in nature. Further, the study also found that some of the clichés, stereotypes and prejudices that certain cartoons use and reinforce, are adjudged inappropriate in the Sri Lankan cultural context. Therefore, the findings of this study indicate that the stereotypes and prejudices of the current generation of children significantly affect the formation of their own identities and the prejudices they develop. Thus, it is evident that cartoons have the power to change the lives of children who watch them regularly and thereby, to shape the characteristics and attitudes of the future generation of our country.

Keywords: *Cartoons, Stereotypes, Prejudices*

The structural transformation of the post-independent Indian society in
Ruth Praver Jhabwala's select novels

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Post-Independent India has undergone numerous changes. The strong foundations of traditional Indian society have been tremendously shaken. It has been observed that both external and internal structural changes have occurred in the society. This paper aimed to investigate the sources responsible for those changes and their effect on the Indian society, with certain questions. Can those changes be counted as consequences of colonisation, political independence or industrialisation? Did they affect mass and class equally? Have those changes improved overall lives or affected them negatively? The creative writers framed these different stages of the society in their literary works. The post-colonial writers in India concentrated on such issues and presented them with various literary tools in their work. Ruth Praver Jhabwala as an insider-outsider of the Indian society captured this transitional phase of India, specifically in her novels. The paper concentrated on the structural transformation of the Indian society observed in Jhabwala's *The Nature of Passion* and *Get Ready for Battle*.

Keywords: *Structural Transformation, Post-Independence, Industrialisation*

Male chauvinism in Pakistan as expressed in the novels of Bapsi Sidhwa *Ice-Candy Man* and *The Crow-Eaters*

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Bapsi Sidhwa who was born into the Parsi community became a Pakistani citizen after the partition of India in 1947. Her novels analyse the social, emotional, political, and spiritual implications of the partition of India in 1947. Sidhwa tries to bring the effects of human civilization, especially the violence which is being repeated in human history. The aim of this study is to explore Bapsi Sidhwa's portrayal of the plight of women who are caught up in the historical event surrounding the geographical and social division in the novels *Ice-Candy Man* and *The Crow-Eaters*. The novels reflect the place of women in Indian and Pakistan societies and how they are corrupted during the complex history of the growing divisions among Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh communities of India. Women are silent victims of male chauvinism in the novel. In *Ice Candy Man*, Sidhwa shows the culmination of violence especially the exploitation of women through the eyes of Lenny, an eight-year-old Parsi child. She tries to show the animosity and brutality of male chauvinism during the horrific violence. During the course of these events, Lenny's beautiful young Hindu nanny Ayah is kidnapped and raped by a group of men. In *Crow-Eaters*, Sidhwa writes about the Parsi community that settled in Lahore. Fareedoon Junglewalla is a respected patriarch in the Parsi society. Bapsi recounts the tale of Fareedoon's journey, his family, intentions, and motivations when they migrate to Lahore. The novel demonstrates the intricacies of arranged marriages, the towers of silence associated with death, and the unexpected death of a child. Though there is a depiction of the subjugation of women in these novels, Sidhwa does not fail to show the women characters who are confident of their individuality. Sidhwa skilfully links gender to community, nationality, religion, and class. To conclude, *Ice-Candy Man* and *The Crow-Eaters* on the one hand reflect the exploitation of women in the male-chauvinistic society and on the other hand revive the freedom of women in society. Both descriptive and comparative methods were used. Qualitative data was collected through texts, journals, articles related to gender representation and informal interviews. On the basis of the criticism collected from various sources, it can be concluded that Bapsi Sidhwa can be considered as a post-colonial feminist who has objected to the western standards of modernization and believed in gender equality within the logic of their own cultural models. Hence, Sidhwa has been highly regarded as a postcolonial feminist author.

Keywords: *Exploitation, Male Chauvinism, History, Social Division, Complex*

The rise of the new woman in Manju Kapur's *Difficult Daughters*

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Literature all round the world completes the task of effective communication drawing the raw material from life, and then it is preserved with words and reaches the readers catering to the need of the people who want to know about culture, tradition and create awareness. The lines quoted below very well relate the introduction by George Lukcas, a great Marxist aesthetician who says, "Literature should not only represent social reality but also present the social structure with an insight into its very organization with a prophetic sense of future and direct its development." Woman of India, has enjoyed a prominent status, from the past, as history records them as noble queens and warriors. They have been dominating the divinity, power, beauty, wisdom, erudition and leadership from time to time. They have displayed varied roles in dharma, society, politics, humanities and other fields as musicians, dancers, artists etc. In the normal life they have proved themselves as mothers, teachers, wives, daughters, sisters in the domestic periphery. Our great scriptures like the Ramayana; Mahabharata etc. are undying evidence of these. Historical books record the contribution of Rani Laxmi Bai, Rani Durgawati, Rani Avanti Bai and many others to prove their warriorship in battlefields and as authorities.

Since independence, there has been an astonishing flowering of Indian women writing in English. The authors are mostly western educated, middleclass women who express in writing their discontent with the plight of upper and middle-class women usually traditional Indians trapped in repressive institutions such as child marriage, dowry, arranged marriages, suffering and patriarchal rules imposed upon widowhood, all which are usually regarded as being antithetical to modernity. The works of Kamala Markandaya, Anita Desai, Bhabani Bhattacharya, Ruth Pravar Jhabvala, Kamala Das, Arundhati Roy, Shobha De, Shashi Deshpande, Gita Mehta, Bharti Mukherjee, Gita Hariharan have attempted to embark on a journey of self awakening of women.

Manju Kapur is one such novelist whose works reflect the anticipation of a new woman with an awareness of self-identity. In her novel 'Difficult Daughter's' she projects the image of the woman in the Indian society. We read about the female protagonists who have bound themselves in the shackles of so called tradition and male dominion in its garb as well as those who rush towards freedom in all forms in the name of liberalization. Her debut novel is a fascinating story spanning three generations. It centers on a woman born at the dawn of the twentieth century into a Punjabi family. The most important character 'Virmati' is the eldest daughter in the family. She is conditioned that a woman's 'Shaan' is her home and not in doing a job, and so she is engaged to a land engineer, 'Inderjeet'. On the contrary, Virmati secretly aspires about leading an independent life and not to follow the monotonous life of domesticity.

The relevance of literature in the changing context: A psychoanalytical study of selected literary texts and social media websites

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This paper aims to study the relevance of literature in the changing context. It is a psychoanalytical study of selected literary texts and social media websites. Literature in an interconnected and polycentric world has fallen behind social media such as Twitter or Facebook to provide a public platform for debate that leads to the promotion of agendas such as human rights, and issues of gender equality. Social media has become a medium to intensify social interrelations globally. It gives space to a new manner of interactivity, but at the same time shifts traditional model of literary communication. Whether literature can still be a societal game changer in the presence of instantaneous communication is a question. In this context, an analysis of works such as *The Holy woman* and the *Hard times* has been done. This paper suggests that literature still retains a global presence of influence, acting as a rallying cry for diverse groups of marginalized and ignored elements within society such as women, the mentally ill, the young, victims of discrimination, students, and others who historically are denied access to power and privilege. Literature's messages and impact has been compared and contrasted with the social media's transient comments and slogans that are quickly forgotten and have no lasting influence. Thus, it has been found that literature plays the role of a subversive actor against the power elite within society and offers dissent solutions to numerous problems as well as advocates for change to unequal relations that currently exist in our society.

Keywords: *Globalization, Influence, Gender discrimination*

The fantastic as the real in contemporary Nigerian and Sri Lankan fiction: An analysis of Abubakar Adam Ibrahim's *The Whispering Trees* and Punyakante Wijenaikē's *Amulet*

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This study analyses two contemporary works of fiction from Nigeria and Sri Lanka, both former British colonies. In the early period of contact between Western powers and the rest of the world, places that later became colonial territories, art as conceived by these societies was misconceived by the Occidental visitors to be random, inadequate, and too fantastic to deserve serious attention. However, as this research argues, from a postcolonial standpoint, these misconceptions were informed by notions of Subalternity. Likewise, given a Magic Realist reading, the study argues that contemporary fiction from the postcolony proves that what was deemed unrealistic was in fact a more honest approach to fiction than Realism. That this fantastic ethos remains part of the leitmotif for fiction today, as the study finds in the analyses of Abubakar Adam Ibrahim's *The Whispering Trees* and Punyakante Wijenaikē's *Amulet*, is evidence that what is at work is merely disparity in consciousness as well as culture.

Keywords: *Magic Realism, Postcolonialism, Culture, Subalternity*

Narrative of emancipation: A study of select Fin-de-Siècle Indian novels in English Anil Kinger

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Unlike other genres, the novel represents multitudes. This is equally applicable to the English novels of India and those of the sub-continent. The west was the early cradle of the novel genre and the postcolonial scenario of the sub-continent is replete with its emulation. The Dickensian and Addisonian precedents—and even before in the era starting from Sir Philip Sydney—carried the social criticism, and penetration of the printed word had created ripples in the lay. Besides its literary merits, the novel is/was the voice of masses' fears, tensions, anxiety, aspirations and hopes. Along with urbanization and the printing technology's rapid spread, the novel gained popularity. What followed is the silent revolution towards liberation and empowerment, facilitated by the horde of readers of the genre. However, the change may not be discernible as usual. Such creative endeavours brimming with courage and conviction instil the zeal among the lay and thus achieve the not so clear end of emancipation. This is an attempt at finding such grains available in the Indian novel in English which saw its heyday during the fin-de-siècle of the last century and which continues till date. Salman Rushdie, Rohinton Mistry, I. Allan Sealy and Esther David, among other Indian and the sub-continent writers who wrote in English, are the authors who penned the works worthy not only of notice but also as the harbingers of change who led the path for others to dwell on. Their narratives provide an in-depth study of the collective psyche of the multitudes gripped in the throes of floods and famine, the gamut of changing relationships, politics and the discourses of the *dalit* marginalized and the almost perennial angst of the feminist concerns. The huge corpus of the said genre thus critiques the historical as well as psychosocial and political references.

Keywords: *Narrative, Emancipation, Novel, Liberation, Change*

Transfer of 'Indianisms' in Indian English: Translation and Shift

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The establishment of English in India has been a gradual phenomenon since its arrival in this country, and one notable feature of its long sojourn on the Indian soil is its remarkable degree of indianisation. This paper discusses some of the features of this indianisation. Till now a vast body of literature has been written in English. Since the establishment and development of English in India, English has been used as a second language (L2) rather than as the mother-tongue or a native one (L1). Hence, there are bilinguals and sometimes multilinguals responding to an Indian context. English functions in the sociolinguistic setting, and is used as a link language both intra-nationally and internationally and is used in Indian English writings. In fact, it has won international accolades in this field. The transfer of Indianisms in Indian English happens in two ways: a translation of an Indian item and a shift based on an Indian source item. Translation establishes equivalent or partially equivalent formations in Indian English from the formation in Indian languages. The shift is usually an adaptation of an underlying formal item of an Indian language, which provides its source. Language is subjected to variation and change that occurs through a period of time. Now English has become an international language. English has developed from a pidgin to a 'standardised' variety. There are geographical and social varieties as well as stylistic variations. Migration of people to other lands from the 16th century onwards and the rise of Britain as an imperial power as resulted in the emergence of many "Englishes": American English, Canadian English, Australian English, and Englishes of SouthAsia, including Indian English.

Keywords: *Indianisms, Translation, Shift, Pidgin, Language varieties*

The ostracized woman: A study of the women characters in Arthur C. Clarke's selected texts

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The origin of science fiction is perplexing since different critics have come up with varied opinions regarding its source. Some trace the origin further than hundred years, to the time of H.G. Wells and Jules Verne. Nonetheless, many believe that science fiction originated in the 19th century, with few texts from earlier epochs instanced as precursors. In the vast corpus of science fiction we find the subgenre of "hard" science fiction in which Arthur C. Clarke's novels are categorized. He is considered one of the predecessors of "hard" science fiction due to his unsurpassable visionary narratives. Numerous research and studies have been conducted regarding science fiction cinema and movie adaptations of Arthur C. Clarke's fictional works. However, there is an absence of research regarding gender dynamics in the literary works of Clarke, which encompasses a male preserve where women are excluded or appear only as peripheral characters. Hence, the intent of this research would be to critically analyse the representation of the women characters by conducting a textual analysis on two of his prominent novels. The findings of this research reveal that although the novels are futuristic and visionary in their outlook, they still contain a conventional and stereotypical portrayal of women. In relation to the content, Arthur C. Clarke's novels are innovative and futuristic which fulfills the reader's expectations. However, the structure of these texts manifests the traditional discourse of Western Metaphysics, which grants prominence towards men. Regardless of the apparent visionary quality of the novels, they are fundamentally based on a "phallogocentric" view of the universe. Thus, despite fame and glory gained by Arthur C. Clarke for his inventiveness, the women characters in his texts are marginalized as they are predominately presented in stereotypical "feminine" roles.

Keywords: *Science fiction, "Hard" science fiction, Arthur C. Clarke, phallogocentric, Marginalized*

The symbolic use of the “Star Money” (“Sterntaler”) as an anti - fairytale in Büchchner’s *Woyzek*

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This paper focuses on the symbolic use of *Sterntaler*, a brother Grimm fairytale as an anti-fairytale in Georg Büchner’s Drama *Woyzek*. The stage drama *Woyzek* which was written by the famous German play writer Georg Büchner in 1836 is based on the murder case of Johann Christian Woyzek who was accused as a criminal after confessing for stabbing his 46 year old wife to death. He was beheaded at a public execution which took place in the main square of Leipzig on August 27, 1824. The execution of Woyzek produced a huge exposure due to the mental state of Woyzek before and after committing the murder which was later revealed by the experiments of Dr. J.A Clarus that Woyzek was a borderline Schizophrenic. The use of the *Sterntaler* fairytale which belongs to the famous fairytale collection of Grimm brothers (*Kinder und Haus Märchen von Brüder Grimm*) as an anti- fairytale, at the last phase of the drama *Woyzek* has created controversial theories among many scholars and researchers about the function of using an anti- fairytale in conveying the themes of the drama while filling the lapses of the drama which was left as an unfinished manuscript by the time of Büchner’s death. The objective of this research is to examine the purpose of using the *Sterntaler* fairytale as an anti-fairytale in *Woyzek*. This research is based upon previous researches based on this topic and comparing the original written version of *Sterntaler* fairytale with Büchners anti-fairytale version of *Sterntaler*. According to the findings of the research it was evident that Büchner has taken the original brother Grimm fairy tale, yet changed its content with the characteristics of an antifairytale with a tragic ending similar to the ending of his drama *Woyzek* to summarize the whole plot in a simple fairytale to represent the existence of defenseless unrecognized people in the society by the character of Woyzek, who are in vainly struggling their entire lives to seek happiness and contentment in a material world governed by money, power and social reputation, which provoke them to end up their lives exhausted and accept the death as their final salvation.

Keywords: *Symbolic use, Anti- fairytale, Woyzek, Sterntaler, Grimm Fairytales*

Mahasweta Devi's *Ajir*: A subaltern's history and the socio-cultural bond

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The lives of the subalterns, beyond the privileged, wither away under the weight of the socio-cultural ethics. As subaltern theory explains, when a subaltern rose in a revolt at any time or place, he did so necessarily and explicitly in violation of a series of codes, which defined his/her very existence as a member of that semifeudal society. The objective of my study was to explore and to critically analyse how subaltern issues are represented in Mahasweta Devi's play *Ajir* (a Bengali term for bonded labourer) – to read the play as a subaltern's history – for a better understanding of the socio-cultural hierarchies and bonds in society. In this process, I examined how certain religious and cultural codes have been devised and used to reinforce the economic relationship and give it the form of an inviolable social relationship. I also explored how the landlord is considered as god, legal bond as sacrosanct and ancestral obligation as sacred, and how the legal bond is thus transformed into a socio-cultural bond. Through the analysis, it was evident that Devi deconstructs these hierarchical oppositions and demystifies certain existing myths, which are expressions of the prevailing socio-cultural order by exposing all these as partial and political. Myths and legends have been often constructed and deployed to enforce the class and caste. Devi also challenges the dominant culture that has legitimized social inequality and oppression. This paper argues that fictional narrative is not a rival discourse to history; rather, it is history that gives the fictional narrative something to incorporate. Within the rubrics of this idea, the play flouts the prevailing culture that has reinforced social inequality and exploitation since time immemorial.

Keywords: *Subalterns, Indian dramas, Narratives*

Gender discrimination caused by geographical situations depicted in the poetry of Jayanta Mahapatra

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Marginalization, a term based on exclusion, globalization, displacement and disasters, describes socio-cultural political scenario where disadvantaged people fight for gaining access to resources and full participation in social life. Feminist critics, in line with this view, maintain the woman's experience of marginalization in a patriarchal system that makes women find their own place and their own identity in society. They believe that women are excluded and oppressed at every level of society, and always suppressed in patriarchy, stereo-types and objectification. Although females' ethnic background may vary significantly, the experience of marginalization may remain the same. In this context, the objective of this study was to explore, through feminist approaches, the socio-cultural situation of women in a particular region in India as represented in Jayanta Mahapatra's selected poems. Mahapatra is one of the eminent Indian poets writing in English. He depicts the socio-cultural situations in the State of Odisha, then Orissa. The poetry of Mahapatra pins down the social reality in his native land of Orissa. The geographical structure of Orissa makes it face the hot summers, the rain, less useful for agricultural productions and the coastal land is not much fertile which further leads the people to poverty and hunger. It has resulted in the atrocities against women. Mahapatra points out the plight of beggars, lepers, women, children and the poor and centers the woman as a major aspect of society; their life is led to prostitution because of poverty and hunger. In other words, he records the atrocities against women, raped girls, and widows. Women, in the male-dominated society are marginalized. They are made to face atrocities. This scenario in society shows that females are marginalized by both nature and culture. To sum up, the poet points out women's oppression caused not only by nature but also by others who are victims of natural disasters.

Keywords: *Marginalization, Geographical structure of Orissa, Poverty and Hunger, Atrocities against women, Patriarchy, Displacement*

Ethnic folklore and shared wisdom: A database for integrating and empowering people of diverse ethnic backgrounds

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The scope of the present paper is drawn by the definition of the folklore by Stith Thompson (1979) as 'a traditional prose tale – a story handed down from generation to generation either in writing or word of mouth.' The two major ethnic groups in Sri Lanka – Sinhala and Tamil – have a long tradition of folktales transmitted in their languages. The study will analyze tales gathered and written by Sinhala (Karunaratna, 2006) Tamil (Visakharuben, 2009) and English (Parker, 1910) authors. These folktales would be analyzed using the motifs identified and categorized by Thompson (1979) to discover 'common cosmologies.' The issue of ethnic specificity would be addressed using Schermeernhorn's (1970) characteristics. The 'common cosmologies,' it is expected, would reveal common values and shared systems of beliefs. These, by being disseminated through education and meaningful cultural interactions, could be used for social reconciliation and tolerance of the other. In order to reach common grounds of understanding, shared experiences and perceptions have to be uncovered. This would be possible if the shared wisdom revealed by the folktales of the two ethnic groups is tapped and channelled into a database that could be used at the grass root level for person-to-person dialogue as Selvadurai (2012) has done with literature and creative writing. Such dialogue could be the basis of integrating the two major ethnic groups and empowering the nation.

Keywords: *Ethnicity, Folklore, Commonalities, Social reconciliation*

The Influence of Buddhism on Michael Ondaatje's literary works

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Many Sri Lankan academics believe that Michael Ondaatje does not focus on his own region in his literary works and that even in instances when he does focus on his region, his gaze is undoubtedly foreign. It is further observed that when he portrays rituals, legends or myths of his country, the portrayal is based on either superficial or mistaken comprehension. Although *The English Patient* is set in Europe, and is assumedly centered on a European, it is the expectation of the paper to present it as a text, which has neither sacrificed Ondaatje's region, nor failed to present the experience of otherness. In contrast, the paper expects to dissect the language, the motifs, and the imagery and to argue that the unique quality of the novel, *The English Patient* arises from the influence of Buddhism which is permeated in Ceylonese culture, which Michael Ondaatje would have innately inherited during his childhood spend in Ceylon. In that context, the paper would expect to illuminate that the Booker prize winning novel, encompasses themes such as impermanence, dukkha, constant fluctuating & unpredictable quality of elements, mortality, continuous change which are founding philosophies of Buddhism.

Keywords: *Ondaatje, The English Patient, Buddhism*

A Covert-overt Approach to cohesion analysis in Tadi's Voices from the Slum
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Investigating the existence and textual value of both covert and overt cohesion in poetic discourse – using Tadi's (2014) *Voices from the Slum* – constitutes the main thrust of this work. It also focuses on the pattern taken by covert and overt cohesive devices as well as their lexical and grammatical types in the collection. Due to space constraints, we selected two out of 96 poems in the collection based on their tendency of having both overt and covert cohesive elements. The poems were analysed using our modified version of Halliday & Hasan's (1976) model of cohesion as our theoretical guide. First, the underlying linguistic features in each poem were identified and inserted accordingly and those with cohesive power among them were explained. Then, all the covert and overt devices of each poem were identified and analysed using simple tables. The study discovered that covert and overt cohesive devices play a significant role in connecting parts of discourses on the one hand, and in their interpretation and textuality on the other. Finally, the paper recommends that the covert-overt approach to cohesion study should extend to other discourse genres/types and that subsequent discourse-analysis-related research should take the surface-underlying approach to discourse.

Keywords: *Underlying Discourse, Surface Discourse, Covert Cohesion, Overt Cohesion, Cohesionist*

Behind the hanbok: A study of the stereotypical portrayal of women in select contemporary Korean dramas

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This study investigated the representation of female characters in contemporary Korean dramas. For a recent trend, the Hallyu wave has been able to capture the hearts of a worldwide audience within a short period of time and according to statistics, the female audience is recognized to be a vital source in the subculture created by Korean dramas. Content from a sample of four popular dramas, *Full House* (directed by Pyo Min-soo), *Playful Kiss* (directed by Hwang In-roi), *Sungkyunkwan Scandal* (directed by Kim Won-seok) and *My Love From Another Star* (directed by Jang Tae-yoo) which were aired in South Korean television channels between 2004 and 2013 were analyzed, with the objective of explaining the discourse of the trend of objectifying the female characters in them. The analysis extended with ample examples such as a majority of female characters of these dramas inevitably catering to contemporary beauty standards of the society which carries the risk of the female audience being influenced to embrace them as ideals, the fantasy elements in dramas deceiving the viewers to perceive the negative elements in social ethics such as gender stereotypes as appealing and majority of these dramas carrying the tendency to justify gender roles assigned to men and women and portraying female rivalry as inevitable while depicting male rivalry as pleasing. In addition, the manner of language usage by men, differing to that of women in Korean dramas was discussed as well.

In investigating the stereotypical portrayal of women in Korean drama, the insights of several feminist theorists such as Germaine Greer, Virginia Woolf, Laura Mulvey, Rosalind Coward and Rajeswari Sunder Rajan were employed in order to uncover the endeavours of the Korean media in portraying a modern Korean woman who is 'superficially' liberated and is tamed in to a submissive object that is happy under the wing of a man.

The Korean woman, who is a product of an economically prosperous society, is not recognized as oppressed as the South Asian or the Middle Eastern woman. Korean dramas can be appealingly sentimental and the depiction of a variety of strong or weak women and their problems might be enlightening to a viewer. Yet, because they largely cater to stereotypes and the portrayal of a woman whose liberty does not threaten patriarchy cannot be considered as progressive. Behind the hanbok dwells an oppressed Korean woman. With the aid of four sample dramas, the study discusses the stereotypical portrayal of Korean women and concludes that majority of Korean dramas are a strong mode of fueling patriarchy in the form of entertainment.

Keywords: *Hallyu wave, Korean dramas, Gender stereotypes, Patriarchy*

Gender-biased perception: A journey of misfortune for “Being Woman” in *The Binding Vine* by Shashi Deshpande

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Gender is a social category that illustrates a lived relationship between men and women. Naturally, this concept is full of cultural material. Culturally, men not only marginalize women, but devalue them on the basis of economic, political and social power. Gender is not only a biological term but also a script. ‘How to gender’ is a skill because gender is a social act, performance and not a mere biological term. Regarding this, sociologist Jaspal Singh records the transition of Jan Marris from male to female, “There seems to be no aspect of existence, no moment of the day, no contact, no arrangement, no response, which is not different for men and women.” Even gender roles are defined in social structure that postulate women at every step and hold their toes to march freely. Gender interrogations within the discipline of psychology began from the late 1960s. The work of Maccoby & Jackline and Kay Deaux concluded that the sex differences between men and women were surprisingly small in most cases. In fact, everyone knows that there are a few differences and more similarities between men and women. Despite this, small gender differences become paramount to marginalize women in the patriarchy.

The present paper illustrates Shashi Deshpande’s *The Binding Vine* which is replete with a group of women who become more or less victims of a gender-biased attitude. The symbiosis of women elucidates their misfortunes on the basis of mere gender. Obviously, they cope with their surroundings but the gender-biased perception defeats them at every step. To exemplify, women like Meera, Kalpana and Shakuntala are strong, but suffer merely on the basis of gender. Here, the women are focused through three generations that highlight their sufferings by being women. The causes of their misfortunes are different from one another but they sail on the same boat of gender; being woman. Each different cause highlights gender-studies. The deep rooted gender-biased perception can be demolished with certain steps but it should be worked effectively at a larger level. At first, male ideology should be expelled from society. It should begin with text-books for kids that highlight gender roles in the minds of kids. Simultaneously, Indian mothering plays a crucial role in gender-stratification. So, it should go in the proper manner that could allow a place to the rise of differences. These solutions may decrease the misfortunes of women to some extent. Though it is a long-term process it is not a difficult one.

Keywords: *Gender, Feminine sensibility, Gender stratification*

Race, gender and class in *The Inheritance of Loss* and *The Terrorist Daughter*

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"If anyone makes you feel less than you are, for the color of your skin, for where you come from, for the gender of the person you love, for the religion you have faith in, stand up, speak up, roar. No silence till we are equal"---- Thisuri Winniarachchi in "Colombo Street." Literature has the capacity to generate imaginary worlds-mental landscapes, or mindscapes-that the reader is invited to visit and to explore. The two novels, Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss* (2006), and Thisuri Winniarachchi's *The Terrorist Daughter* (2014) are based on the themes of race, gender and class, which will be seen through the lens of migration and multiculturalism in a postcolonial setting, which is a prevailing theme in the two novels. The reasons for migration have varied, but climatic, social, religious, cultural and financial factors have been important. The issues of race, gender and class are vital factors in this connection. Desai tells the story of Sai who lives with her grandfather, a retired judge, in Kalimpong on the Indian side of the Himalayas and at the foot of Mount Kanchenjunga. At the same time, Desai reveals the life of Biju, the cook's son in the judge's household who works as an illegal immigrant in New York. Desai gives vivid descriptions of multicultural societies for the whole world.

The Terrorist Daughter is the story of the privileged youth of a post conflict society. Civil wars can go on for decades, but when they do come to an end, they are like thieves in the night. They just end, leaving entire generations of people orphaned and traumatized. Everyone talks about death tolls, the war crimes, the winners and the losers, the heroes and the fallen villains. But nobody talks about that invisible third party; the children. With the Civil War framing the backdrop, the novel, a love story, describes the post-war political scenario of Sri Lanka. She has seen the savage and brutal conditions in her country, which have inspired them to pour their emotions and experiences in the form of writing. *The Terrorist Daughter* is supposed to have played a crucial role in educating people and creating awareness among them.

My objective is to examine each author's individual approach to the three themes of race, gender and class and also to find out how the concept of power influences the three issues differently in the two novels. The signs and themes of loss, loneliness and racialism impacts are seen in the life of the characters. Actually, we are all historically situated despite it is of contemporary events. Both the authors are the youngest nominees for the prestigious award, Booker Prize for Kiran Desai and State Literary Award for Thisuri Winniarachchi, and this has inspired me to explore similarities and differences between the two novels.

Keywords: *Race, Gender, Migration, Racialism, Loss, Violence*

Role of science fiction in empowering present and future

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Literature is very important for any society in various ways. It helps scientists and technologists by providing them with new innovative ideas. The objective of this research was to explore the impact of science fiction on technology through an exploration of science fiction by writers such as H. G. Wells, Edward Bellamy, Ray Bradbury, Jules Verne, Aldous Huxley, George Orwell, Arthur C. Clarke, John Brunner, Mary Shelley, E. M. Forster, Hugo Gernsback and Robert Heinlin. Through the investigation, it was evident that science fiction writers have provided many innovative ideas to scientists through their fiction which became a reality later. And those innovations are now, an integral part of everyone's life. It was also observed that science fiction has provided many new ideas to make the destructive weapons such as gun, dynamite, atom bomb and chemical weapons, which could adversely affect society. However, literature also nurtures sensitivity and sympathy in people, inspiring them to use ideas of science fiction for the welfare of the society rather than destruction. Accordingly, the present paper justifies that science fiction provides ideas and inspiration to scientists to work in proper directions and make human life more comfortable through their inventions.

Keywords: *Science fiction, Innovation, Inventions, Ideas*

Striving for freedom: Sylvia Plath's engagement with abjection in relation to the female body and sexuality to gain freedom from patriarchy and gender stereotypes

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As a major proponent of the confessional genre of writing, Sylvia Plath was able to powerfully voice her dissatisfaction and struggle against the patriarchal system, which limits and restricts the female body and sexuality. She uses vivid illustrations of abjection to resist the overarching patriarchal system and gender stereotypes which limit and restrict the abilities of women by situating them in a marginal position in the society. Plath particularly associates these restrictions with the female body as she sees it as a prison she is unable to break free from, due to the societal expectations of the male dominated patriarchal system. Thus, throughout her work, her disillusionment with the patriarchy and her cynicism with the conventional gender stereotypes which confine her body and sexuality, become apparent as she subjects them to abjection. In order to express this I am using theoretical insights from the text *Powers of Horror: An essay of Abjection* by Julia Kristeva. In addition to this, I am also using insights from Simone De Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* as a secondary text to theoretically substantiate my research. I am analyzing Plath's poetry collections *The Colossus and Other Poems*, *Ariel* as well as her other poems from the book *The Collected Poems* which contains a selection of 224 poems written by Plath, her semiautobiographical novel *The Bell Jar* and *The Unabridged Journals by Sylvia Plath* to validate my findings. The analysis shows how Plath challenges the patriarchy by depicting how she is devalued as the marginalized *other* within the society. I am also elaborating how she struggles to attain freedom through subjecting the maternal body to abjection to separate herself from the confinements and restrictions of object hood. However she does not wish to become a socially proper woman who conforms her body and sexuality to the norms and conventions imposed by the symbolic system. Therefore, she refuses to embrace the Law of the Father as that would mean she will be conforming herself to the patriarchal system. Thus, she challenges the Law of the Father by attempting to achieve his literal death throughout her work. However, after all these struggles, Plath is still unable to completely free herself from these restrictions which confine her body and sexuality. She is only able to achieve total freedom, independence and empowerment through the realization of her own literal death. Therefore, I am coming to the conclusion that the only way she can free herself from the restrictions, limitations and prohibitions imposed by the patriarchal system, is by achieving her own literal death.

Effect of the influence of Eliot's poem —"Waste Land" towards Siri Gunasinghe's
Poetic Composition titled —"Mas Le Nethi Eta"

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Siri Gunasinghe could be identified as a poet who was mostly subject to argumentation within the Sinhala poetic field. His maiden poetic composition titled — "Mas Le Nethi Eta" is considered to be a land mark in the Sinhala poetic field. He succeeded in marking his own identity, approaching a different turn than the independent device, which prevailed in the second poetic generation of Colombo era, which was introduced by G.B.Senanayake. When considering the motivational temperament of Gunasinghe to create such a revolutionary change, it appears that fundamental concentration should be extended towards the western poetic tradition. "The Waste Land" composed by famous modernist American poet T.S.Eliot could be considered as an important compilation in this context. This poem illustrates the psychic tragedy of the urbanite centered in a busy life style disowning all legitimate belongings in the social system. It appears that the poetic techniques found in — "The Waste Land" is mostly used by Siri Gunasinghe in his —"Mas Le Nethi Eta" composition. Similarly, the subject matter, the configuration vision of life and poetic techniques which are used by T.S.Eliot in his poem have been used by Siri Gunasinghe in his composition. Therefore, it is possible to compare T.S.Eliot's — "The Waste Land" with Siri Gunasinghe's — "Mas Le Nethi Eta" poem.

A Socio-cultural perspective on teaching language and literature

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The sociocultural perspective enriches the experience of teaching language and literature in a pluralistic society with linguistic and cultural diversities. It explores how people's behavior is shaped and how modes of communication and sources of representing reality are determined by the environment of people that they are raised in. This perspective has been examined in *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw and *The Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai through textual analysis. In this context, a question arises as whether language and literature teaching be fully understood without considering the social and cultural milieus of both teachers and students. The paper best fits with qualitative approach and employs sociocultural theory of learning as a theoretical framework based on the particular ideas of Lev Vygotsky. This paper entails and elucidates some pedagogical implications such as participation of students and teachers in socially-mediated activities for teaching, since language and literature education is a collective and two-way achievement. It also suggests a range of useful teaching strategies, in which instructors and students get equal opportunities to mediate, develop and learn together. It is examined through textual analysis that language as a powerful symbolic tool mediates to make a social-cultural and global link between teachers and students. It is further examined that literature gives us a lens to develop our literary and cultural outlook beyond margins of our own society and traditions by allowing us to go abroad, reinvent identity and then return home with a deepened understanding. Thus, it is concluded that teaching and learning occur effectively by comprehending cultural similarities as well as diversities and thereby bridging a gap between foreign and local language and literature.

Keywords: Sociocultural, Interlinguistic, Pedagogical, Global

Philosophy and Ethics

Hegel in the core of Marx's materialist dialectic

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The aim of this study is to elucidate Hegel's role in Marxist dialectic. If one examines Marx's criticisms of Hegel's idealist dialectic by having considered some isolated places only, idealistic dialectic and Marx's materialistic dialectic seem to be contradictory forms, but if one considers Hegel and Marx in a broader perspective, these two dialectical versions become rather complementary. The methodology applied in this study is also gained from Hegel himself: Hegelian dialectic, sublation (*die Aufhebung*). Using this methodology, I analysed the development of Marxist dialectic by negating and abolishing the Hegel's mystical content but retaining and preserving its rational form simultaneously. In addition to that, I employed a historical approach, which exposed some historical reasons caused for downplaying the Hegel's influence on Marx. Some of them are ignorance of early Hegel's and early Marx's philosophical texts, and others are deliberate political reactions of Soviet Marxism against Hegel. A lack of consideration of how Marx employed the Hegel's systematic dialectic in *Grundrisse* and *Capital*, which was originally formed in Hegel's *Science of Logic*, was also a considerable historical reason. The following findings are derived from the study. What Marx grasps into his materialist dialectic is the active subjective side of Hegel's idealism, though Hegel expressed it in an abstract form. Though one aim of Marx is to demystify Hegel's speculative dialectic which reversed the relation between subject and predicate, Hegel's concepts like Spirit (the role of subject as spirit), dialectic of negativity, totality, mediation, alienation, objectification, otherness, substance also as subject, self-movement of thought and the categories of thought, Being-Essence-Concept, organism and so on, are at the very core of Marx's materialist dialectic. The integral components of Marx's materialist dialectic like actual existent, real subject, productive activity, material activity, material production, human praxis, political economy, species power, historical reality, social being in a material context, material conception of history, social labour, labour as substance etc. are critical extensions of Hegel's idealistic dialectic. The birthplace and workplace of Marx's materialist dialectic is Hegel's speculative dialectic. This study will make considerable contribution to the on-going HegelMarx debate.

Keywords: *Materialism, Idealism, Dialectic, Alienation*

Practicing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in Sri Lanka

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Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) has gained wide recognition as a short term, goal oriented and efficacious treatment modality for a number of psychological disorders. Yet, CBT was originally developed in the West; its applicability across culture is yet to be validated. In this article, the author wishes to draw attention to her experience in using CBT in Sri Lanka, which is a South Asian country with a lot of cultural diversity. As a registered clinical psychologist in Sri Lanka, the author has been in private practice for three years and her experience of using CBT is that it requires few adaptations in using with Sri Lankan clients. Most of these adaptation requirements have been observed among the Chinese population too. During consultations, the author observed the fact that the treatment process using CBT did not progress as would be expected. When these gaps between what is expected and the real outcome were explored by discussing with the clients, the differences in ways of understanding and responding to certain treatment strategies were observed. Most of the time, feedback was obtained by the clients themselves. Following the feedback from the clients, adjustments to the treatment process was carried out and the methods that received repeated positive responses from the clients have been adapted to the treatment process. Despite the fact that adaptations are necessary, Sri Lankan clients seem to respond well to CBT. As these observations are based on clinical experience, further research into the matter is required in arriving at conclusions.

Keywords: *Cognitive Behavioural therapy (CBT), Sri Lanka, Cultural adaptation*

The applicability of Buddhist teachings in solving current environmental issues

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Environmental pollution has become a major issue in the current world. The term "Environment" denotes totality of all extrinsic, physical and biotic factors effecting the life and behavior of all living things. Environmental pollution takes place on air, water, land, soil and sound etc. due to various reasons such as globalization, industrialization, population growth and many other reasons. As a result, hazardous diseases including cancer, birth defects and mental problems can be caused. Also, presently we are experiencing significant problems in our natural environmental system including a drastic variation in rainfall patterns, climate changes such as droughts and flash floods, global warming and the depletion of Ozone layer etc. Today, all over the world, there is a growing interest in Buddhism. The Buddha is not only a religious leader but also a naturalist who stimulates environmental conservation. Many teachings of the Buddha are focused on how environmental degradation and destruction can be prevented. Therefore, the main objective of this research is to examine how Buddhist teachings can be utilized in overcoming the current environmental issues. The Buddha manifested universal compassion even towards natural environment, which in return started practicing loving kindness as a way of respecting him. For thousands of years, the Buddhist forest monasteries have manifested a harmonious living with nature by being established in the mountains in the forests. Tranquil life in the forest helped Buddhist practitioners to improve their inner qualities. Furthermore, the Buddhist standpoint on the conservation of environment is found in the Pali Canon. Vinaya Pitaka, *Dhammapada*, *Malinda Panha* which give more examples in this regard.

Keywords: *Environmental Conservation, Environmental pollution, Buddhist Forest Monasteries, Pali Canon*

The utility and application of Socratic methods or dialogues to present debate

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The purpose of this study is to re-evaluate and provide a modern interpretation of the method named dialogues or dialectical method, which was used by the Ancient Greek thinker, Socrates. This is an analytical research. Therefore, it considered the existing sources of Socrates' teachings. This paper has three sections. Section one considers the method of dialogues with its meaning and the practical usage in Socrates' teachings. Second section analysed how Plato developed Socrates' methods of dialogues in his philosophy. Third section focuses on the application of the above concept to current intellectual society. The paper considers how the method of dialogues could be used as a therapy to change the cognitive aspect of human mind and develop an understanding of the reality of matters and issue in life. The paper discusses what the dialectic method is and how it could be depicted as a cooperative and argumentative dialogue between two individuals. This discussion revealed certain facts of critical thinking. The central technique of this method is "Elenchus" used for disrupting refutations. The interlocutor would stand for his argument and first he develops an affirmative argument and then the interlocutor constrains for negation. Thus, the interlocutor will have reached his/her argument tactfully. The paper argues that Socrates used this method for determining a valid hypothesis out of invalid arguments and to reveal the truth from untruth.

Keywords: *Socratic methods, Dialectic method, Western philosophy, Present debate, Verification*

Political Science and Public Policy

Post conflict challenges in Sri Lanka: Revisiting the concept of peace zone in the Indian Ocean

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The year 2009 marked the end of a three-decade-long armed conflict in Sri Lanka. Since then, the level of peace in the country has been better than in her neighbouring countries like India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. Most importantly, these countries are gripped by security threats such as terrorism and nuclear weapons. Moreover, all the countries in the region are victimized by the interferences of external powers as well. Within in this scenario, late Mrs. Bandaranaike's proposal to make the Indian Ocean as a peace zone can be used as a new cue to overcome security threats. Her proposal was first mentioned at the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit in Lusaka in September, 1970 and it was a response to the expulsion of the people inhabiting British owned Garcia and the conversion of Indian Ocean into a U.S. (United States of America) base. Through this proposal, she introduced a cooperative mechanism for countries in the Indian Ocean to begin consultations with big powers. Along with her proposal, the author will develop an argument that the concept of Peace Zone can be used in South Asia to avert contemporary threats while forming friendly relations with big powers. According to that perspective, the implications of the above concept should be aligned with modern politics as well. It means she down-warded foreign relations with U.S. due to the presence of their naval task force in the Indian Ocean during the India- Pakistan war. However, in the current globalized world, those relations are unavoidable and therefore the author will highlight the importance of revisiting the concept of a peace zone with new political trends. In this context Sri Lanka will also benefit from this kind of approach in fostering relations with other countries. This paper is based on qualitative research methodology, which entailed an extensive examination of relevant data. The data were collected from secondary sources such as journal articles, reviews, printed books and reports. Furthermore, the findings of this study indicated that there is a requirement to establish a peace zone in South Asia.

Keywords: *Indian ocean, Non Alignment Movement, Peace zone, Security*

Dilemma of practicing of good governance in local government institutions in Sri Lanka

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Local government is a core stone of the democracy and development of a given country. The global trend of the local government has rapidly changed and has adopted principles of good governance in their local institutional systems in the world. Nature of Local government is significant regarding determining shape and nature of the democratic political culture of the given society as a whole. The global objective of the local government is to archive millennium goals by adopting principles of good governance in practices with regard to social and political wellbeing of the people. Sri Lanka is a democratic country, which has been implementing its own local government system for a long historical time line. Local government system in Sri Lanka has to be changed in parallel to global trend in term "Good Governance" in the local government sphere. One of the main purposes of the existing local government systems was to enhance the democratic practices by adopting universal trends and deliver rapid and quality services for the ordinary citizens for their social wellbeing. Yet, the recent trend has emphasized that most of local government institutions have reflected lack of adopting and practices of good governance principles with regard to quality services in their institutional practices. The overall objective of this paper is to explore the main reasons behind the failure of good governance in the practices of existing local government institutions. This research, specially, focused on practices of principles of good governance in the local sphere. Both primary and secondary data was collected to analysed the situation. Also, both qualitative and quantitative approaches were in this research. Therefore, global literature on good governance and local government has been accessed for the analysis. Main scholarly writings and interpretations and arguments have been reexamined in this paper. Also, qualitative technics such as personnel interviews and questioners were used for gathering and analyzing information regarding the existing nature of the local government and practices. Results of the study indicate that lack of efficiency, accountability and transparency have significantly affected local government institutions in Sri Lanka. Specially, lack of commitment of the elected people, corruptions and frauds and party domination, wealth, class and family politics have an impact on local government functions and quality of the services. Conclusion of the research is that elite and family domination have manipulated local institutional system and their functions.

Keywords: *Dilemma of practices, Good governance, Global trends, Local government institutions*

Urban development project & human rights in Sri Lanka

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The urban development project aims to make Colombo city one of most attractive cities in the South East Asia region, which in turn will have a great effect in supporting tourism in Sri Lanka. The major task of the project is to establish new housing schemes by removing the unauthorized residences living in slums and alleyways, and then relocate these low income residents in to new houses by removing their current residence. The Sri Lankan government argues the case that this project not only increases beautification of the city, but also the living standards of its residents. But affected parties, civil societies and volunteer organizations criticize the government's effort and in several occasions it has caused conflict. These parties maintain that this project violates their rights and also the government continues to act according to its own will while ignoring their expectations. The purpose of this research is to identify which communities are living in slums, as well as to explore whether the human rights of these communities are protected as a result of providing land and housing according to government policy. During the research, primary data was collected through questionnaires and interviews. Both primary and secondary data were analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively from a sample of 100 families living in Dematagoda "MihinduSenpura" a multi-story housing project. Research indicated that human rights of the residents have been affected in various ways: improper implementation of resettling policy, forceful takeover of land and loss of title of their house and property, inadequate living areas in multi-story housing, unfair treatment through law and freedom of living, Psychological breakdown and employment difficulties. So it is important for the government to consider the attitudes, ideas and proposals of the people before launching this project. When building multi story houses, due consideration is required for: the living, the condition of the house they lived in before, the new house, personal health protection and factors which create new urban slums and settlements. It is a requirement that development projects implemented by the government should comply with both country and as well as community development. It should be a development that does not harm the human rights of the people.

Keywords: *Development, Human rights, Multi story houses, Residents, Urban*

Good governance for sustainable development in Sri Lanka: The way forward

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Today, good governance has been identified as one of the essential ingredients of sustainable development. There is a close relationship between the quality of public administration and economic growth. In fact, democracy, good governance and the rule of law at national and international levels, as well as an enabling environment are essential for sustainable development including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger (General Assembly resolution 66/288, 2012). State capacity, or the ability of states to form and implement policy across the whole of their territory, is an essential prerequisite for sustainable human development. Having understood the importance of good governance in the sustainable development, the United Nations has included a number of key elements of good governance in its Sustainable Development Goals. As far as Sri Lanka is concerned, there is no better time to talk about good governance than this where good governance has become one of the major criteria in determining the future political direction of the country. This is more evident with the fact that the current government in Sri Lanka was elected into office under the banner of good governance. However, there is no adequate research done on Sri Lanka's practice of good governance. Against this backdrop, this study shall attempt (i) to understand the importance of good governance for sustainable development in Sri Lanka, (ii) to understand the main strengths and weaknesses Sri Lanka possesses in practicing good governance, (iii) projecting it to attain sustainable development in Sri Lanka, and (iv) finally comprehend the main strategies that Sri Lanka can use to attain sustainable development through good governance. This study is basically a case study that closely looks into the practice of good governance in Sri Lanka. The paper shall closely study where Sri Lanka has succeeded and failed in the practice of good governance. The main source of data collection would be secondary data obtained from various sources like books, annual reports, journals, websites etc. The study shall look into a wide array of internationally accepted indices which include Rule of Law Index, World Press Freedom Index, Corruption Perceptions Index, World Governance Index, Gini Coefficient Index, National Poverty Index, Environmental Performance Index etc in order to understand how well Sri Lanka performs in different good governance indices. The study has found that, despite the fact Sri Lanka has performed well in some of the aspects of good governance; it lacks certain critical elements of good governance. Furthermore, it is also found that Sri Lanka lacks a mechanism which can effectively link the practice of good governance and sustainable development. Identifying these shortcomings, the study attempts to formulate a strategy which effectively links sustainable development and good governance. This strategy shall consist of seven main pillars; Leadership, Independence, Inclusion, Equality, Transparency, Accountability and International partnership.

Keywords: *Good governance, sustainable development, Sri Lanka, Democracy*

Human Right's Commission of Sri Lanka: Effectively empowering fundamental rights

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In Sri Lanka, entertaining complaints related to infringements of fundamental rights has been vested in two institutions. The first one, the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, is granted the authority under the articles 17 and 126 of the Constitution of Sri Lanka. Interestingly, the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission"), too has been assigned, by the Human Right's Commission of Sri Lanka Act No 21 of 1996, to closely monitor and investigate complaints regarding infringements of fundamental rights. However, in practical terms, the procedure, enforceability and the impact of the decisions of these two institutions on fundamental rights matters are dissimilar. A remedy through the Supreme Court, though rigorous and expensive, is enforceable and binding. The Commission, on the contrary, adheres to a relatively flexible procedure in redressing such violations, but, the statutory formalities shackle the binding nature and enforceability of its recommendations. Nevertheless, during the past few years, it is the Commission that has been involved in many cases regarding fundamental right matters, than the Supreme Court. This paper, therefore, proposes reforms that can empower the Commission as a judicial body, in order to ensure and promote fundamental rights effectively.

The methodology includes an analysis of the Constitution and the Act, and cases related to constitutional amendments. The research has identified that it is the statutory barriers that primarily impede the enforceability of the Commission's recommendations, and therefore suggests reforms to eradicate such structural obstacles. Similarly, the paper brings in the proposition of transforming the Commission into a judicial body, with the jurisdiction and authority to entertain fundamental rights complaints, without abdicating or alienating the judicial power of the people. In this regard, the potential of extending the writ jurisdiction regarding fundamental rights matters and a mechanism to empower the Commission's recommendations are brought into discussion.

The Commission is conferred upon a broader duty by the Act³ of not only inquiring complaints, but also researching and promoting human rights. Moreover, the Commission's procedure in inquiring a complaint being concessionary and less complicated, with its wide-spread network, empowering the Commission, by itself, is identified, as a positive move towards safeguarding and developing fundamental rights of the country. In terms of ascertaining the individual liberty of all the Sri Lankans, it is imperative that the fundamental rights are promoted and facilitated by law, rather than discouraged and suppressed based on mere technical inconsistencies.

Keywords: *Fundamental rights, Human Rights Commission, Jurisdiction, Empowering, citizen*

Multipolar System vs. Multi-order System: An analytical study on the transformation of the International System

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The main goal of this paper is to explore the transformation of the international system from *multipolar system* to *multi-order system*. International relations scholars illustrate the difference between past international systems and constellation of the three identified international systems, i.e. Multipolar, Bipolar and Unipolar in understanding international politics. However, international system scholars had identified another type of system known as Multi-order system over the course of transformation of international affairs. The fourth type of transformation forecasts that multi-order system is not yet completed. The current system emerged after the cold war and it contained the only hegemonic power. However, the contemporary international system appears to be in flux and the new international order that was established after the twenty first century. Moreover, the transforming of the existing international order has been debated recently in the scholarly literature. It suggests that the current system is witnessing a return to the kind of balance of power politics that characterized the multipolar system of the 19th and 20th centuries. The system was multipolar because it consisted of more than two great powers who influenced globally. However, some international relations scholars forecast that the current international system is changing towards a multi-order system. The multi-order system is fundamentally different from the three previous international systems. It consisted of different orders and multiple sovereign states. Moreover, the multi-order system displayed a broad difference of the component parts. The data of the present study was collected through secondary sources and they have been analyzed descriptively. The article emphasizes the need for conception of the coming both international system and its implication on recent global politics.

Ensuring right to water through the protection of fresh water resources: An analysis of the adequacy of the Sri Lankan legal framework

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Even though Sri Lanka is an island, which consists of a number of natural water resources, unfortunately some people in the North Central Province suffer from water-borne diseases which are caused due to the lack of access to fresh drinking water. From a legal perspective, what needs to be explored is how effectively right to water has been recognized under the existing Sri Lankan Law. As far as the Sri Lankan situation is concerned, unlike the Constitution of India, Sri Lankan constitution does not consist of an Article recognizing right to life. Thus, the central research question is whether the right to water be established as a fundamental right based on the recognition of the right to life within the constitution by the Sri Lankan judiciary through the interpretation of the constitution of Sri Lanka for the purpose of protecting fresh water resources. Principally this paper is qualitative in nature and the objective is to argue that the right to water needs to be recognized specifically in the Sri Lankan constitution in order to ensure the people's access to natural fresh water resources. It is also questionable as to how the government of Sri Lanka can protect and promote human dignity, which is embedded as a fundamental right in the constitution without providing basic needs to the citizens of the country.

Keywords: *Right to water, Protection of fresh water resources, Environment Law*

Role of identity politics: Caste, class and trans-nationalism

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Identity politics can be defined as “the political arguments that focus upon the interest and perspectives of groups with which people identify”. This includes the ways in which people's politics may be shaped by aspects of their identity by being a part of any social organizations like race, class, religion, gender, ethnicity, ideology, nation, sexual orientation, culture, information preference, history, musical or literary preference, medical conditions, professions or hobbies. Not all members of any given group are necessarily involved in identity politics.

In plural societies, the assertion for identity and autonomy on the basis of ethnicity, language, religion and culture has been a common problem. Owing to the majoritarian form of governance, only the majoritarian groups are benefited in the process of modernization and they form the mainstream of the socio-political fabric. The minority groups remain isolated, deprived and at the periphery of the system. This is the root cause of the phenomenon called *Identity Politics*. This paper is an effort to contextualize and historicize academic critical readings on Identity Politics in the modern Globalized Indian context. The study will throw some light on why *Identity Politics* emerged as a dominant force in the region in the 21st century. The term *Identity Politics* and movements linked to it came into being during the later part of the 20th century. Prominent amongst them are the Class Movements, the Feminist Movements, the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Movements, the Disability Movements, the Ethnic Movements and the Post Colonial Movements. The influence exercised by identity politics and various movements under the banner of it during the last two centuries has been a subject of multidisciplinary inquiries. The politics of identity has many hues, demarcated by different states of sensitivity and sensibility prevalent in a society. They can be broadly grouped into two categories as the politics of domination and the politics of resistance. The politics of domination is the quest for power for which identity is invoked as a means of mobilization. The politics of resistance is the politics of rights in which identity serves as a cohesive force for achieving internal solidarity. The identity politics of the majority religion belongs to the former, whereas the identity politics of minorities, such as Dalits and Adivasis, to the latter. Though being very important and widespread, the Identity Politics school of thought has never been left unquestioned. Many critics have raised many pertinent questions with reference to Globalization and macro/ micro *Identity Politics*. This paper deliberates on various nuances of these two categories, in particular the transnational context in general.

Keywords: *Identity, Politics, Caste, Class*

Hindu nationalism and the politics of diversity and heterogeneity

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This paper seeks to explore the relations between the two related yet distinct concepts of 'diversity' and 'heterogeneity', primarily as they obtain in the Indian context, but with the potential to be generalized outside of it too. Both 'diversity' and 'heterogeneity' have been, and remain, cherished buzzwords in most formulations of democratic politics. The paper will argue that, even in these contexts, the heterogeneous is usually determined by the principle of exclusivity, while diversity is determined by the principle of multiplicity. Furthermore, the idea of heterogeneity is invariably enmeshed in a politics of alterity, of 'otherness' and consequently of potential or actual inimicality; in contrast, the idea of diversity is usually deployed in the promotional politics of a transcendent unity, as evinced in the slogan 'unity in diversity'. The paper will expand on the theoretical and political implications of these relations, by exploring the conceptual relations between 'heterogeneity' and 'diversity' as (a) different markers of difference; (b) as registers of different, even inimical, political programs; and (c) as nevertheless drawing on similar, even indistinguishable socio-political tendencies. It will examine the theoretical and political implications of these, in terms of the complex, even contradictory, dynamics that they lead to, in program as much in praxis. The paper will attempt to illustrate these analyses by examining some usages and articulations of these concepts in the context of the recent phenomenal growth to power of Hindi nationalism in India, to signify and narrate specific instances of political mobilization, as well as political repression. Finally, the paper will reflect on the meanings and significance of these usages for the contours of the nation-state as it engages with social and cultural multiplicity.

Keywords: *Diversity, Heterogeneity, Governance, Democracy*

An analytical study on the Sri Lankan foreign policy after 2005

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Foreign policy is the official diplomatic methodology used for inter-state relationships by any state with another state. Therefore, any state gives priority to their foreign policy, in the task of planning their state policies. Even in the realm of Sri Lankan official inter-state relationships, it is this principle of foreign policy that it has been based on. At the early stage of independence from the British empire, the political and economic ideologies of the governments that came to power had been instrumental in formulating the foreign policy of this country. A recognized policy framework was not in place. However, after the 1960s, Sri Lanka's foreign policy had been based on the principles of the Non-Aligned foreign policy. Thus, after the 1960s, the governments that gained political power followed the Non-Aligned Foreign Policy as their foreign policy with some amendments based on the policies of the respective political parties. However, since 2005, the foreign policy of Sri Lanka appears to have deviated from the Non-Aligned policy. Hence, this research studied why the Sri Lankan foreign policy has deviated from its non-alignment policy after 2005. The main objectives of the study were to find out (a) the factors that shifted Sri Lankan foreign policy from its previous non-alignment policy; (b) the new sources for the Sri Lankan foreign policy; (c) the new trends associated with the Sri Lankan foreign policy; (d) and whether the foreign policy should be based within a new framework of foreign policy. Accordingly, the study was conducted analyzing data from primary and secondary sources, quantitatively as well as qualitatively. Primary data was gathered from interviews conducted with ambassadors, lawyers, and experts of this field. Secondary data was collected through books, magazines and the Internet. Findings of the study reveal that the reasons for this existing situation are the outdated Non-Aligned policy since the collapse of the power-block politics of the previous era, the ethnic crisis and belligerent environment, the foreign policy implemented after 2005 targeting only national security of the country, weakening relationships with the western states, alleged war crimes and human rights abuses, etc. Therefore, this study while recognizing the non-aligned policy as Sri Lankan foreign policy concludes that the policy has merely its conceptual value but not the non-aligned quality.

Keywords: *Foreign policy, Inter-state relationships, Non-alignment policy, Political parties, Powerblock politics,*

From Human Rights to Human Dignity: The inside-outsider view of the Refugees in Kristiansand Locality of Norway

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The article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHCR) states that everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution. The concepts of asylum seeker and refugees came to the limelight of the international civil community after the First and Second World Wars. At the end of both World Wars, the majority of Europeans had become refugees who needed a safe place where they can find lifesaving caring. The concept of refugees has become a universal phenomenon in the circumstance of increasing civil and domestic wars in the developing world. Today, the majority of refugees are from the developing context and migrate either legally or illegally to the developed world predominantly to the Europe or to the USA. The national politics of many developed nations at present have focused on a policy of assimilation-led integration of refugees whilst the localities in many contexts prefer the policy of integration through cooperation. The national and local politics of the Scandinavian countries are cooperative and promotive of welfare, human rights and human dignity of refugees. Norway has relied upon integrating these refugees and asylum seekers through an assimilation policy. The dilemma of the community cohesion and pro-immigrant policy of the Norwegian localities is that how the refugees in Norway have perceived these policies. This research is to understand the refugees' perception on the inclusion policy of Kristiansand locality in Norway. Two research questions were formulated; what inclusion policy for refugees has been carried by the Norwegian localities in Kristiansand? How the refugees have perceived the inclusion policy? The empirical data to address these questions were collected from 10 case studies of the refugees in Kristiansand. The sample of the study consists of eight Syrian refugees and two Sri Lanka Tamil refugees who are currently being considered as refugees. The qualitative methodology of narrative analysis has been applied to analyse data derived from the 10 cases. The findings of the study reveal that the religious institutions of Norway have so far played a key role in integrating refugees to the Norwegian society. In addition to religious intuitions, the national and local politics of Norway has facilitated the refugees' integration program. Though the religious and political institutions have implemented the integration program, this paper argues that the identity crisis is the key issue faced by refugees in integrating hem to Norwegian society. Most of the time, the refugee identity has kept them skeptical and distance from the Norwegian society. The welfare is not a matter of the refugees, but the challenges are on the freedom, liberty and enjoying their culture in the Norwegian land.

The impact of environmental pollution, women's empowerment and achieving sustainable development goals: South Asian women in focus

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Statistics says household/ indoor air pollution is liable for over 1.3 million deaths per year in Asia, of which almost half occurs in South Asia. Most of these early deaths were due to non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer. However, millions of women in rural areas spend several hours every day cooking meals on smoky ovens or open fires within their homes and, they are the first victims of smokerelated acute and chronic respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses. Since, United Nations (UN) sets different principles for Women's empowerment , such as, treat all women and men fairly at work—respect and support human rights and nondiscrimination, confirm the health safety and well-being of all female and male workers, encourage education, training and professional development for women. On the other hand, Sustainable Development Goals also fixed some goals for us, which are in consonance with the provisions of Women's Empowerment principles; i.e. ensure healthy lives and promote well-being of all at all ages, end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, ensure access to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards. In this respect, if we want to reach the SDG's we have to follow the basic standard of women's empowerment. We believe that environmental pollution is one of the obstacles to ensure women's empowerment. Thus, the objective of this study is to analyse how environmental pollution affects women's empowerment and achieving Sustainable Development Goal in South Asian countries, more specifically in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The study was conducted mainly on the basis of the critical analysis of both primary and secondary sources of data following both the qualitative and quantities approach.

Keywords: *Environment Pollution, Major obstacles, Women's Empowerment, Sustainable Development Goals*

The impact of re-introducing a Bicameral Legislature in post-war Sri Lanka

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Sri Lanka has had a history of democratic experiments, especially with constitution making since independence. However, these experiments were not able to produce substantial solutions to the country's problems. This led to the development and continuance of a civil conflict that dragged the country into violence and devastation for three decades. Despite the conclusion of the war in 2009 through purely military means, the conflict itself has not come to a close. If Sri Lanka is to make the transition to a post-conflict society, it must pave the way for effective constitutional and political reforms to take place. In hindsight, it is clear that Sri Lanka faced a crucial opportunity for change in its long history, similar to the Ceasefire Agreement (2001) and the Tsunami (2004). The failure to respond to issues in the post-war context culminated to a point where dissatisfaction erupted in a swell of popular support for the common candidate at the January 8, 2015 presidential election. This led to the development of the post-war, post-Jan-8 context and phenomenon in Sri Lankan recent history and current political situation. Political developments since then have been compared and evaluated against this post-Jan-8 context. This situation has also created the opportunity for new research to be developed with regard to democracy and governance in post-war Sri Lanka with respect to the legislature. Naturally, it is of utmost importance that it is used efficiently and wisely. Even though, constitutional reform has played a central part in political debates locally, the question of reform has always revolved around concepts such as devolution of power (i.e. on the federal system of Government and the existing Provincial Council system) and issues of human rights. Concerns for the establishment of a bicameral legislature – i.e., a legislature composed of two houses – did not appear as prominently in public debates.

This study focuses on the critical theme of a bicameral legislature, its presence in the Soulbury Constitution, reasons and analysis of its absence thereafter, and why it is required today in the current post-war context. The research aims to fulfill the objectives of renewing the dialogue on institutional democratization and in making suitable suggestions for the post-war constitutional reform process initiated in the post-Jan-8 (2015) era. The study will predominantly be based on a literature review utilizing the data gathered through archival documents and studies carried out in the area both locally and internationally. This information will be analyzed in comparison to the experiences of India and South Africa as well while analyzing the lessons to be learnt from them. India, as the largest democracy, was chosen specifically because of the regional significance it bears on Sri Lanka in addition to the historical connections it adds, especially in terms of obtaining independence. South Africa has been cited as a general success story for its effective transitional justice mechanisms as well as its successful constitutional structure and development. The study will also be compared on a smaller scale against the status of the USA as well.

Sociology and Social Policy

The impact of socio-economic characteristics on commercial pineapple growers in Sri Lanka

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Pineapple is one of the crops in the fruit range that is being commercially grown in Sri Lanka today. There are a number of districts that have engaged in commercial pineapple cultivation. In Gamapaha and Kurunegala districts, growers cultivate pineapple more predominantly than in other districts. Most of the growers sell their fresh pineapples to the pineapple collectors according to their poor price levels. So growers get low income from the fresh pineapple marketing. The objectives of the study were to determine the impact of socio economic characteristics on commercial pineapple growers. The study was conducted in the Gampaha district (Dompe, Diwulapitiya DS divisions) and the Kurunegala district (Kuliyapitiya, Dambadeniya DS divisions). Judgmental sampling technique was used to select two districts and DS divisions within those districts. Respondents were selected from each DS divisions using simple random technique using a list of pineapple growers. Semi structured questionnaires were used to collect data from pineapple growers through face-to-face interviews and through telephone calls. The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics. The results showed that socio-economic characteristics such as age, household size, gender distribution, occupation status, educational level, vehicle ownership, marketing experience, farm gate price of pineapples and knowledge about price information of pineapple growers. The study recommends that government take necessary actions to improve the participation of commercial young pineapple growers in pineapple cultivation and their educational level.

Keywords: *Pineapple growers, Descriptive statistics, Socio economic characteristics*

Urban family migration and its effects on the destination household well-being: A case study of urban locations in the Colombo district

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Literature on family migration towards urban locations in developing countries emphasizes that family migration plays a vital role to make effects on the entire society. Among these effects, socio-economic well-being of migrant families, urban population growth, urban economic development etc. are the main reasons. As in many other developing countries, socio-economic well-being issue of migrant families is one of key issues faced by most urban migrants in Sri Lanka. Hence, this study explores the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of urban migrants and their status of socio-economic wellbeing at the destination. The quantitative data of this study was collected from a sample survey by using an interviewer-administered questionnaire covering 400 migrant households from four urban areas of the Colombo district. The demographic characteristics and socio-economic factors of migrant families were identified by applying univariate and bivariate analyses while the factors related to socio-economic wellbeing were analyzed using factor analysis. Qualitative data was analyzed using the content analysis method.

The study found that the highest proportion of migrant household heads (22%) were between 45- 49 age group. Male-headed migrants (89%) are higher than female counterparts. Out of migrant household heads majority are Sinhalese. Most male (29 %) and female (41%) respondents have secondary level education. Although, most of the young age household heads have migrated to urban areas since their marriage and employment purposes, middle aged migrants have decided to move because of other purposes like their children's education. Furthermore, more than half of the migrant household heads were engaged in informal employments. Although migrant households have been able to significantly improve their economic wellbeing within the living time at destination, the qualitative findings indicated that urban family migration effects to increase socioeconomic wellbeing issues in urban areas such as house congestion, alcoholism and drug abuse, air, water and noise pollution etc. Hence, these findings suggest that the government should decentralize urban institutions making the public services available in sub-urban and rural areas as well. Ultimately, the government or non-government authorities should try to introduce appropriate policy and programs to overcome social inequalities among urban displaced migrants' and social and economic wellbeing issues of urban migrants who are engaged in the informal sector employments.

Keywords: *Socio-economic well-being, Household, Migrant families*

Autonomy of informal waste workers in the Western province of Sri Lanka: A phenomenographic analysis

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Informal waste management is an important part of urban wastescapes in developing countries. Despite providing a valuable service to the society by recycling waste, informal waste workers are marginalized in many ways. Increasingly, informal waste workers within urban wastescapes are struggling to create alternative survival strategies, economic practices and social relations to resist the structures that marginalize them. One important concept highlighted and echoed in these struggles is the significant interest in gaining and maintaining autonomy by the informal waste workers.

This study investigates how people working in waste management in the Western province of Sri Lanka conceptualize autonomy of informal waste workers and how these conceptions progress toward resisting dominant structures of power. This study is part of a research to investigate the feasibility of a novel waste-based manufacturing project to improve the lives of informal waste workers by allowing them to convert waste plastics into useful products. This project concept is developed by the not-for-profit organization Waste for Life (WFL) which aims to open up pathways towards autonomy and genuine economic security for people who need it most.

In-depth interviews conducted with thirty individuals working in both formal and informal waste sectors in the Western province of Sri Lanka were analyzed using a qualitative research approach called phenomenography. This research approach is used to discover and organize the variation in which people experience and understand various aspects of their world. Six qualitatively different conceptions on how individuals within the wastescape of the Western province conceptualize autonomy of informal waste workers emerged from the analysis. These conceptions are mapped into a phenomenographic 'outcome space'. The conceptions include 1) autonomy of informal waste workers cannot exist in the dominant discourse 2) autonomy as freedom to act within specific boundaries 3) autonomy as the capacity to act 4) autonomy as benefiting both self and others 5) autonomy as broadening horizons and 6) autonomy as a transformation. We argue that understanding how social phenomena is perceived by people that we work with could facilitate in making informed decisions and developing meaningful projects that will yield better outcomes. This study also shows that phenomenography, a methodology predominantly used in education research could be used effectively to analyse complex social phenomena.

Keywords: *Autonomy, Informal waste workers, Wastescape, Phenomenography*

A sociological study on the job satisfaction of development officers

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Unemployment of graduates has been one of the major social issues in Sri Lanka. To reduce the issue related to graduate students' unemployment, new government vocation was introduced in 2012; titled "Development Officer" (DO). About fifty thousand graduates were recruited for the new vocation to divisional secretariat offices all around the country. Although they were engaged in their new vocations, they only had two days of work in a week and their vocation became an extra burden to the government. Thus, the results were different from the expectation of the government; consequently, civilians criticized DO's work as a failure of the government and as a weak point in decision-making. This problem directly affected the social background of the officers. Thus, present research was conducted to find out the role and job satisfaction of the development officers. Data were gathered through a questionnaire survey from randomly selected 50 DO's from Medagama Secretariat Division. Study was conducted from 2014 March to 2015 March. Eighty two percent of the DO's are not satisfied in their new vocation and 90% of them claimed that this occupation is not suitable for the graduates. Seventy percent of the DO's complained that they have not been given a definite role as well as community's perception towards their status are not in satisfactory. Seventy two percent of the DO's have only two days of work per week. Development officers did not have specific duties in their new vocations other than collecting socio-economic data from people in the relevant Grama Niladari Division. Generating new vocations for the graduates should be done in a progressive way and should be aimed to provide graduates' knowledge to the community. Otherwise this type of vocations wastes the capital of the country and intern could have an effect on the graduates' social and psychological background.

Keywords: *Development, Job satisfaction, Unemployment, Role and status*

A study on the factors affecting the selection of employment among females, in the Kesbewa Divisional Secretarial in Sri Lanka

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Traditionally in many societies including Sri Lanka, females were expected to be engaged in household duties and less or not promoted for formal education as well as outside employment. However, contemporary societies are debating on equal status for the female and estimating her socio - economic contributions to families and to wider society. Current world of work shows that females are performing various types of challenging careers equal to/or better than males. Accordingly, this study attempts to find out the nature of selecting employments among females and the factors affecting their selection of employment. The study was carried out in the Kesbewa Divisional Secretarial in the Colombo district. Data and information was gathered from randomly selected 50 women through a questionnaire survey. In-depth interviews were conducted with 5 females for further information. It was observed that 80% of females' marital states, 42% of educational background as well as 32% for freedom of the occupation have been severe factors affecting their selection of employments. Further, number of family members has been a major reason in the selection of occupations. It was also noticed that the majority of the occupations do not provide free time for females to take care of their kids and families. As a result, 64% of them had to resign from their previous permanent work places and have to engage in other means of earning through self-employment such as private tuition classes, saloons, flower shops, boutiques, communications etc. Interestingly, it can be indicated that even though they are occupied in various sectors, the majority of the female's first preference is to teaching as a career. It is due to their belief that teaching as a career provides more free time to look after the household work while working as a teacher. It is also noted that even though the contemporary females have engaged in many high level careers such as Doctors, Lawyers, Engineers, and Administrators etc. they seek more flexibility in their employment than men mainly to balance between household responsibilities and career responsibilities.

Keywords: Traditional society, Women, Employment selection, Family, Marriage

The best interest of the child and ability to challenge presumptive paternity: Lessons for Sri Lanka

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According to the presumption of legitimacy, the Sri Lankan legal system recognizes that a child born in a lawful wedlock is the biological offspring of the marital husband. Children are entitled to parental care, love, support as well as inheritance. The rationale behind the presumption is to provide required care, support and inheritance, while removing the stigma of illegitimacy on children. Children are in a safer position because of the presumption and also it converts a non-marital child into the status of a marital child while preserving child's interests. However, scientific advancements are challenging the presumptive paternity in today's context. High accurate scientific testing is accepted as convincing evidence in Sri Lanka in rebutting this presumption. By the use of genetic testing, it is easy to determine biological paternity in near cert.

The objective of this paper is to examine whether the factor of biology is adequate enough to invalidate the presumptive paternity, when there is a conflict between presumptive and biological paternity. In order to achieve the objective, this research utilized a qualitative research method. Statutes, journal articles, international conventions, academic expressions and books in the area of presumptive and biological paternity have been taken into consideration, to emphasize the necessity of maintaining a proper balance between best interest standards and to consider the challenges related to presumptive paternity. Researcher has identified that, Sri Lankan Legislature and also the Judiciary has a greater responsibility, when allowing a non-paternity claim to rebut the presumption. Accordingly, this paper raises the necessity of a statute in Sri Lanka, prescribing the manner in which the marital presumption could be challenged, while granting discretion for the Court to take the final decision, based on best interest standards.

Keywords: *Best interest, Presumptive, Biological, Paternity, Challenge*

Socio-cultural belief and success of immunization in Nigeria: A study of Local Governments (LGs) in Kaduna state, Nigeria

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Globally, immunization has been considered one of the best and effective methods to reduce the child morbidity and mortality rate. In spite of the increasing immunization coverage worldwide, the Kaduna state of Nigeria has remained one of the states with a high mortality rate as a result of vaccine-preventable diseases. Previous studies have indicated the effect of socio-cultural beliefs among other factors on the success of immunization in Nigeria. Though there has been increasing sensitization on the importance of immunization in Nigeria, evidence of a similar study in the Kaduna state is not available in literature. This work replicated previous studies that had been conducted in other areas with a view to investigating the impact of socio-cultural beliefs on the success of immunization in Kaduna state so as to avoid overgeneralization. Both primary and secondary data were utilized. Results indicated significant success in terms of immunization coverage with a little decline in the mortality rate in the state. The study further established a correlation between socio-cultural beliefs and the success of immunization in the state. The study recommended the need to increase the involvement of religious and traditional rulers in the sensitization program.

Keywords: *Local Government, Immunization, Socio-cultural*

Family and inter-generational dynamics of parent-child relationship: A study in Srinagar
District of Kashmir

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Family is the basic social institution of society and a social group comprises of a man, his legally married wife with one or more children. The parent-child relationship is an important sociological dimension of the family, but recently it has undergone significant changes. In the past, there was a joint family system in which great grandparents and grandparents lived as one family with their children. But in the changing society, the institution of the family has not been able to enjoy many important social functions, socialization, caring about child, recreation etc. The family has disintegrated from joint to nuclear and couples find it difficult to manage their children. This has led to the marginalization of children and they are being separated from family and the rest of the society and are not at the center of things. This is evident from various studies carried out in the area of sociology of children. The study adopted exploratory research design and used interview schedule as a tool of data collection. Based on a sample of 200 respondents and using an intensive approach through the case study method, the study has been carried out in the rural and urban areas of Srinagar District of the Kashmir valley. The research objective of the study was to understand and analyze the implications of social dynamics of parent-child relationship like harmonious parent-child relation, face to face contact, intimacy, parental responsibility, child isolation, child deviance, child aggressiveness/anger, etc. The author found that there has been a significant impact on these variables and the gap between parents and their children has widened which has marginalized the children within the family.

Keywords: *Kashmir, Parent-child relationship, Inter-generational dynamics, Marginalization*

A sociological study about the discrimination faced by female street sex workers in society

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The main objective of this study is to understand the ways in which female sex workers are discriminated due to their profession. The study focuses on the people who discriminate against them as sex workers. Further, attention is paid to understand the attitude of workers towards discrimination created by society. The sex industry being an illegal profession in the context of Sri Lanka, the present research attempts to understand how sex workers cope with this discrimination. This is discussed in relation to Foucault's analysis on the relationship between power, body and knowledge and the concept introduced by symbolic interactionism. This descriptive study, which collects data from two police divisions within the Colombo area where a relatively higher number of street sex workers are found, selected 25 female street sex workers using snowball sampling for the study. Qualitative data, collected through in depth interviews and non-participant observations, were used for narrative analysis. Research findings demonstrate that the most obvious and visible category among sex workers are the street sex workers. Also most of the people around sex workers easily identify that they are sex worker.

Therefore, these people discriminate sex workers by telling many unwanted words and passing hints. They look at sex workers in a negative manner. Many people believe that this profession shouldn't be in the Sri Lankan context. Also these clients believe that sex workers can do anything for money. And they do not treat them as human. Also in the Sri Lankan context, there are many prejudices and beliefs created about sexuality based on social, cultural, illegal and religious facts. The reaction for this discrimination is based on the experience, personality and age of sex workers. Many sex workers do not pay attention to these discriminative behaviors of the people and they are used to such discrimination.

Keywords: Sex workers, Discrimination

Current developments of Sri Lankan Gypsy: Ahiguntika people

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Gypsy people are an underground community in Sri Lanka. Sinhalese identify Gypsy people as *Ahikuntaka*, while amongst Sri Lankan Tamils and Muslims they are known as *Kuravar*. They have a unique identity as a set of people who live in tents, roam from place to place and earn money by palm reading, snake charming and training monkeys for entertainment purposes. It is assumed that they are descendants of an ancient roaming ethnic group who came to Sri Lanka from Andhra Pradesh in India many centuries ago. They are now scattered throughout

Anuradhapura, Galgamuwa, Puttlam, Moratuwa and several other areas in Sri Lanka. Current situation of the Sri Lankan Gypsy people is different from their situation many years back. They face lots of changes in their life styles today. The 21st century has left them behind and they are struggling to maintain their identity. They have marginalized and the marginalization of these people caused a breakdown in their social structures, leading to a long isolation within the community.

Lots of issues and changes are noticed among the Sri Lankan Gypsy people today and it is questionable why they have changed like this. Hence, the main purpose of this research was to search new developments (issues they face and changes of their life styles) of Sri Lankan Gypsy people. This research was done mainly based on KUDAGAMA as a case study and both primary and secondary data have been used for this research. Interviews and observation are employed as primary data collection methods. To collect primary data, 30 families were interviewed and observed. In addition, books, web sites, online magazines were taken as the secondary data. Since the collected data was qualitative, data analysis has been done qualitatively.

Research findings proved that they face various issues when they deal with themselves and when they going to deal with other ethnic groups in the Sri Lankan society. There are new developments which they are facing currently. Mainly, their ways of earning have changed a lot and poverty has threatened their identity and survival. And also their marriages seem a little bit changed because now the younger generation is more likely to get married to Sinhalese. They like to blend with others and like to live as normal Sinhalese people. And younger generation has no needs to continue their Gypsy identity.

Keywords: *Sri Lankan Gypsy; Ahiguntika people, Kudagama, Current developments, Culture*

Youth ganging and sub-culture of gang in the city of Colombo

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Virtually, the trend of increasing establishment of youth gangs in most of the countries turns to be a social menace. This study focuses on the extent to which the pessimistic impact affects the general public due to the youth ganging and characteristics of gang culture in the Colombo city. The authentic focal point of this paper is to emphasize purposive facts supported with basic elements explored after an in-depth study on the criminal behavior of youth those assembled in gangs together with affirmative analysis on how their behavior is affected by the dominant sub-culture they respect.

The research focused on 493 identified gang members belong to 75 gangs within 14 GN (Grama Niladhari) divisions of the Colombo city, the age range of the interviewees was 18 – 32 years. All the said gangs and the gang members were identified within the study area through a snowball technique using available contacts of gangs and the data was collected through field observations, Interviews (formal/informal), etc. through a survey questionnaire. In-depth interviews, focus group discussions, case studies and information collected from the Police and related institutions, and the general public were also used when necessary.

The results of the data analysis showed that there are distinctive variables associated with the lives of gangsters, out of which their family background, socio-economic settings, social stratification factors, addictions and social adaptation etc. have become key factors. The conclusion of the study is that the stability of gang culture depends on varied socio-economic and cultural factors those in prevalence in the city of Colombo and sub cultural behavior being adopted by the youth gang members in order to continue varied illegal activities without interruptions. There is a common assumption and belief that if a group of youth had formed a gang, they have had whatsoever involvement of anti-social or illegal activity. The reason behind such assumption is that according to the experience of the society, there are no gangs in the urban zone which are not guilty for illegal motives or misdeeds. Irrespective of mitigation actions by legal authorities or socially motivated institutions to control delinquency as well as varied criminal acts, there are crucial factors intervening in an invisible manner to support and assist gangs to provide needed security. These imperceptible forces are steering gang actions having created a supportive structure which is a quite impressive blessing for gangs.

Keywords: *Ganging, Characteristics, Sub-culture, Urban, Youth*

Transformation for empowerment: Moving beyond the traditional role of trade unions

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Trade unions are the entities, which protect the rights of their members. Traditionally, they focus on the rights of their members and labour rights. However, many scholars have proved that, within the last few decades there is a significant change in the role of the trade unions. This new role comes in different names such as Community Unionism, The Union Learning Representative (ULR) role, Social Movement Unionism and Democratic role. Among these changes, the unionists were trying to categorize themselves with the label of human rights. Trade union advocates adopted human rights analysis and arguments in their work, and human rights organizations began including workers' rights in their mandates. The objective of this research was to explore this issue in detail with a view to understanding it profoundly. This was a qualitative research based on case studies and semi-structured interviews. Besides, it was also followed by an analysis of police complaints and case reports. Also, UN/ILO papers on trade unionism and human rights defenders, union web pages, leaflets and other publications, labour research network web pages, newspapers, journal articles and social media were also used as secondary data. Accordingly, this research paper focuses on three main areas. First, the paper defines/ identifies trade unions as human rights defenders. Secondly, it discusses how this definition can be used as a protection mechanism for trade unionists. Finally, the paper proposes how this protection mechanism can be used for strengthening the legitimacy, credibility and capacity of trade unions since the research identified the new role of trade unions as a mechanism of strengthening the trade unionism in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Traditional role, Trade Unions*

Theology and Religious Studies

The philosophy and practice of Buddhism in contemporary situations

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It is well known that Gautam Buddha was deeply influenced by various types of sufferings that he saw around him. These included sickness, old age, death, attachment and unfulfilled desires, and the pain and suffering that these events entailed. In Buddhist terms, these are called 'dukhha.' Buddha thought about these situations deeply and gradually concluded that these dukhhas are part of life and cannot be avoided. But what can be done to overcome the accompanying mental pain and suffering?. Gautam Buddha interacted with some holy men for guidance and salvation from suffering. He lived like an ascetic by fasting and giving up all worldly comforts so as to attain the answers to his doubts. He did so, but his quest for salvation continued. After a long spiritual journey, he got enlightenment, sitting under a bodhi tree. He shared the enlightenment with his small group of followers who started calling him Buddha -the enlightened one.

Sickness, death, old age are still encountered but there are large instances of injustice, oppression and violence as well. Vulnerable sections of the population are denied basic human rights, adequate food, shelter, access to education and healthcare. Young children are forced to become bonded labourers and are subject to ill treatment and brutality. Moreover, the environment of many countries has deteriorated. Air, soil, water are polluted and large scale deforestation has taken place due to which our ecosystem is damaged with attendant adverse effects on our health and biodiversity. How can Buddhism address these problems? Buddhism believes not only in salvation for oneself but also has compassion for all living beings. The article attempts to address these contemporary concerns and to find tentative answers in Buddhist philosophy and practice.

An analytical study of the Buddha Dharma found on ancient Silver Beads in Surin, Thailand

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The objective of this research study was to analyse the Buddha Dharma that appeared on the patterns of ancient silver beads in Surin, Thailand based on the Buddha Dharma in the Buddhist scriptures. This analysis was based on the pictures, main lines and shapes of beads that appeared on ancient silver beads. The ancient silver beads in Surin consisted of Klep bua beads (Lotus's petal bead), Maeng Da Lai Rang Hea beads (Net shape on Horseshoe Crab's wings bead), and Jarl beads (Bead of tiny rolled metal amulet inscribed with magic words) (Endoo and groups, 2014). The research methodology adopted was to study published research papers and historical books related to ancient silver beads in Surin and Buddhist scriptures. Moreover, in-depth interviews were carried out with 5 famous ancient silver makers, 20 Buddhist monks, 20 silver bead sellers, 20 academicians from educational institutions and 5 historians in Surin to collect data regarding the pictures, main lines and shapes of beads that appeared on ancient silver beads to understand Buddha Dharma as depicted in the patterns of ancient silver beads in Surin. Thereafter, all data were analyzed by synthesis and inductive approach to evaluate the Buddha Dharma in the Buddhist scriptures, in the pictures, in the main lines and shapes of the beads that appeared on ancient silver beads and to find out what they were related to. The results of the study indicated that the Buddha Dharma found on Klep bua beads was the pattern of lotuses. The lines decorated on the bead are curved up as the lotus petals. In the Buddha Dharma in the Buddhist scripture, the lotus was related to Prince Siddhartha's birth. Before his birth, Sirimahamaya, his mother, dreamed that a white elephant carrying a lotus asked for her permission. After Prince Siddhartha was born, he stepped on lotus. Moreover, the lotus in Buddha Dharma is related to many Buddha Dharma doctrines compared with four kinds of persons, *Ugghatitanyu*, *Vipacitanyu*, *Neyya* and *Padaparama*. Buddha Dharma found on the patterns of Maeng Da Lai Rang Hea beads (Net shape on Horseshoe Crab's wings bead) was of a shape of a fishery net appeared on Horseshoe Crab's wing. In the Buddhist scripture, fishing net is compared with lust. The nature and character of the net can trap the fish, birds etc. Those fish and birds trapped in the net cannot escape or leave it. So, the condition of trapping in a fishing net in the Buddha Dharma is compared with the people without wisdom and are not to be trained by the Buddha Dharma because they are trapped by lust. Those people are trapped because of lust and are consisted of passion and have mistaken notions and cannot leave lust. It is like the fish that are trapped and cannot leave the fishing net. Buddha Dharma found on the patterns of the Jarl (a bead of tiny rolled metal amulet inscribed with magic words), which consisted of a triangle and a rectangle. The triangle that appeared on the pattern of Jarl in the Buddha Dharma means the Triple gem, three Sankhara (Formations) and three Buddha-Ovada (Admonitions of the Buddha).

Keywords: *Analytical study, Buddha Dharma, Ancient silver beads, Beads' patterns*

An all-encompassing process of mind cleansing through Vipassanā

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Mind in Buddhism is considered as foremost in the world, and contentment or misery is brought about due to *mind culture*. Mind is polluted by the taints lying inside the mind and the cankers intruding it from outside which becomes worse in this frantic contemporary society causing problematic mental states and detrimental deportments. Vipassanā meditation in its practical pliability can be adopted to make the mind stable, sound, unshaken and reality-conscious in the face of frantic and chaotic contexts in the current scenario. Therefore, the objective of this paper is to explore through Buddhist tenets, an all-encompassing process of mind cleansing through Vipassanā.

Bhāvanā is the development of wholesome qualities or potentialities of the mind (*bhāveti kusaladhamme vaḍḍhetīti bhāvanā*). Abhidhammāvatāra Purāṇaṭṭikā mentions that bhāvanā means association, development and application of wholesome doctrines (*bhāveti kusaladhamme āsevatī vaḍḍhēti etāyāti bhāvanā*). Thus, bhāvanā aims at cleansing the mind of impurities and disturbances that pervert the human mind through lustful desires, hatred, ill will, indolence, worries and restlessness, skeptical doubts, and reorganizes the mind through the cultivation of qualities as concentration, awareness, intelligence, will, energy, the analytical faculty, confidence, joy, tranquillity, etc.

Two kinds of meditation designated in Buddhism are development of tranquility (*samathā*) and development of insight (*vipassanā*). The Sabbāsava Sutta, which deals with seven ways of eradicating defilements that cause mental and physical problems and seven steps elaborated in the Rathavinīta Suttas can be adopted as an overall methodology in the process of cleansing the mind. The right mindfulness, right concentration and the right effort are the foremost prerequisites that initiate the process of mind cleansing. Therefore, vipassanā is a conscious activity that can cleanse one's perverted mind through subduing discursive thought, discouraging unwholesome mental states, nourishing wholesome mental states and leading finally to the attainment of highest wisdom which sees the nature of things as they are and realizes the Itimate Truth, Nirvāṇa.

Keywords: *Mind, Cleansing, Vipassanā*

Bhikshu society and origin of the *Bhikkhu Katikavat*: Beginning from the 8th Century A.D. – 15th Century A.D.

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Some stone inscriptions of the late Anuradhapura period have been categorized as codes of disciplinary rules for the perpetuation of the *Buddha Sasana*. The kings in order to protect the *Buddha Sasana* worked for the purification of the order of the monks when it was beset by corrupt practices. The documentation of regulation the Buddhist Order by the kings in the form of the rock edicts continued up to the late Anuradhapura period as *kathika*, which later came to be known as *Kathikawathas*. With the formal introduction of Buddhism to the island in the 3rd century B.C. by the mission led by *Arahat Mahinda*, the *Sangha* was established in a more organized manner. What is witnessed after that was the rapid expansion of the *Sangha* with overt royal patronage. The rapid expansion and institutionalization of the *sangha* created the need, from time to time, to protect it from deviations, disorders and interpretations. As a result, the enactment of disciplinary rules (*Patimokkha*) for the *sangha* took place to address the need of the day. In this process, the conventions reached for the protection and progress of the *sangha* are identified as *Bhikkhu Katikavat*.

This research is meant to analyze the content of this *Bhikkhu Katikavat* as depicted in inscriptions of the period from the 8th to the 15th centuries AD. The *Bhikkhu Katikavat*, as depicted in both the archaeological and the literary sources, can be categorized in to two branches: the *Sasana Katikavat* and the *Vihara Katikavat*. The content of the *Katikavatas* will be analyzed in comparison with the relevant sections of the *Vinaya Pitaka*. Under the impact of a variety of economic, political, social and environmental forces, the *Bhikkhus*, collectively as an order and also individually, underwent a marked transformation in relation to the attitude and moral behavior in the latter part of the Anuradhapura period. In this context it became necessary to have an agreement between the political leadership (the King) and the *sangha* to develop conventions to maintain the disciplinary code and the monastic life that was expected from the *Bhikkhus*. The stability and the power of intervention and commitment of the community of *Bhikkhus* was a deciding factor for the safety and smooth running of the public administration machinery of ancient Sri Lanka. The *Bhikkhus* and the ruler were not only the idealist forerunners in the dynamics of the field of politics of the social fabric of Sri Lanka but also they were the carrier elements of the human culture.

The research, by analyzing the content of these agreements reached between the *Sangha* and the political leadership traces the impact of the *Katikavat* on the *Bhikkhu* order. At the same time it will pay attention to the internal situation of the *Bhikkhu* order and how the *Katikavatas* addressed these issues.

Keywords: *Deviations, Disorders, Katikavat, Patimokkha, Convention*

The importance of the study of the philosophy of religion in solving current religious exclusivism

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Although religions offer a communal system for the coherence of societies, they are often misrepresented in many contexts: this has been the main barrier to establish peace and harmony in societies. Religious exclusivism is one such outcome of misinterpretation, which is the major barrier in creating a better world. What many religious exclusivists believe is that certain religions are true whereas others are false. This definitely has created social unrest among the adherents of the major world religions. The objective of this study was to explore the philosophy of religion - a branch of philosophy - meticulously, to demystify its concepts, with a view to understanding the concept more meaningfully, thus to help create a better society by solving current religious exclusivism. The main objective of philosophy of religion is not denouncing or justifying any religion, but inquiring various rational questions in religion and attempting to solve religious issues within inter and intra communities. To avoid conflicts in societies, philosophy of religion suggests the importance of the concept of religious diversity that has become one of the main elements of philosophy of religion.

Keywords: *Philosophy of religion, Religious exclusivism, Diversity, Global platform, Issues*

Women's and Gender Studies

Concept clarity of women empowerment among young college girls

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Empowerment of women in India has been a challenging task as gender-based discrimination is a deeply rooted social malice practiced here in many forms. The objective of this paper was to study and examine the awareness among the young girls about the issues related to this issue. Around this framework, the researcher identified the sample group of about 100 (groups of 10 each) undergraduate female students from various urban socio-economic backgrounds and involved them in *Focused Group Discussions* by giving them a series of questions one by one to be discussed among themselves where a pre-appointed reporter would jot down responses of the students and finally present the same after the completion of the exercise. The issues under discussion: Understanding empowerment, need for empowerment, how empowerment can be achieved, stakeholders of empowerment like parents, teachers, social and political leaders, exploitation of women, laws and protection of women against exploitation and role of education, individuals and men (society) for women empowerment were given to them in the form of questions. The findings and outcomes have been registered statistically as well as reflectively using statistical tools and interpretative methods to be enumerated and discussed in the full-length paper. The study has been found to be engaging also in terms of sociological and psychological aspects having potential for a full-length research as has been done by many previously. The findings have provided insights into the rising awareness about the issues among the sample subjects, though with certain variations in principle and in practice. Education, family, upbringing, selfconfidence, independence and interdependence, gender equality and biases, and personality, among others, were the issues where respondents clearly gave opinions. The attempt brought forth multiple debates and discussions revealing interesting opinions.

Keywords: *Concept, Clarity, Empowerment, Focused group discussion*

Gender equality and empowerment of women in India: The third millennium development goal

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This study is mainly targeted at examining why India has failed to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women despite the efforts made by the United Nations in their third Millennium Development Goal (MDG) - 'Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women'. A quantitative research method has been followed by the author to collect data. Primary data is gathered from the annual reports on MDGs by the United Nations, official websites of the United Nations and other agencies of the United Nations. Other types of literature produced on this issue such as research books, articles, criticisms etc. is referred to by the author as secondary data. The research is based on the assumption that India's patriarchal society and its customs and traditions hinder the achievement of the referred MDG. According to literature, many programmes, events, constitutional amendments, policies, new laws were implemented in India accordingly to achieve the third Millennium Development Goal. However, throughout the years India's performance in this regard has not been impressive and as the world reached the deadline for these goals (2015), the various reports available determined that India has not been successful in achieving gender equality and empowering its women despite the solid efforts by the government of India and the United Nations as well. India has long been famous for its patriarchal social milieu and deep-rooted traditions, norms, beliefs, and practices and is therefore known as a country where gender inequality and suppression of women have been persistent. As per the intention of this study is to search for the reasons for India's failure to reach this goal, the author has investigated and has successfully proven that these traditional social conducts are still strongly recurrent to barricade India's realization of the third Millennium Development Goal.

Keywords: *Gender equality, Empowerment of women, Indian women, Socio-cultural traditions and norms, Millennium Development Goals*

Milestone of legislative laws towards gender sensitization

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Empowerment is a multi-faceted, multi-dimensional and multi-layered concept and women's empowerment, in this respect, is a process in which women gain greater share of control over resources like money, access to money, control over decisionmaking at home, in community, in society and in the nation, and to gain 'power'. In this respect, women in ancient India enjoyed a very high position. But gradually their position degenerated into being mere objects of pleasure, which meant to serve certain purposes. They lost their individual identity and even their basic human rights. Thus, the women in this land of ours have been treated as an object. The objective of this paper is to explore gender sensitization, rights and improvement of the position of women in relation to the legislative initiation in India, and to examine whether the position of women has positively changed. In postindependence era, there had been attempts to eradicate gender bias. The constitution of India prohibits discrimination on the ground of sex under the Article (14 to 16), which enables the state to take protective measures for safety of women, provide maternity care and equal pay for equal work irrespective of sex. The Article 51 -A (e) imposes fundamental duty on every citizen to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women, and the Article 325 prohibits imposing of any ineligibility for inclusion of name in electoral roll on the ground of sex. Women's Reservation Bill in the parliament and the Bill on Right to Property for women are some of the concrete steps, which are likely to make a difference to the overall situation. Increase in the political participation of women will also give them new power and greater confidence. After passing a government policy under Article 51A of Fundamental Duties enumerated in the Constitution of India, it became easy for women to take participation in elections like Gram Panchyat, Municipalities, at Taluka and district levels and also the parliament and state legislature. The 73rd and the 74th amendments to the constitution provided for reservation seats (at least 1/3) in the local bodies of Panchyats and Municipalities for women. Many provisions have been enacted under Indian Penal Code such as Criminal Procedure Code, Hindu Code Bill, Protection of women from Domestic Violence Act and Prevention of Sexual Harassment Act. This paper examines these milestones in legislative law relation to the current situation of women in India.

Keywords: *Judicial aspects, Reservation Bill*

Power and displacement: En route to female empowerment

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Empowerment and liberation are words that are frequently associated with women portrayed in literature. In quite a significant body of literature in English, the process of acquiring female liberation is depicted as a result of displacement. The use of the term 'displacement' in this paper is defined as 'leaving one's own sociocultural context in search of liberation'. This article explores the meaning of empowerment, in the context of its root-concept: gaining power and how, depending on the context of the individual trajectories of protagonists its definition becomes varied. Through this journey, this article mainly attempts to contest the dominantly depicted notion of attaining liberation through displacement as portrayed in the selected literature. In order to critically explore this idea, the novel 'Jasmine' by Bharati Mukerjee, an Indian diasporic writer, will be scrutinized as a background study. The short story, 'A Bird of Paradise' written by a Sri Lankan diasporic writer Chitra Fernando will be juxtaposed against 'Jasmine' to prove that displacement does not always bring about empowerment as shown through Rupa's quest for liberation through displacement while highlighting the interdependencies, tensions, societal norms and expectations as well as obligations as depicted within the world of the story. The novel 'Jasmine' will thus provide the platform for contesting which depicts a woman who becomes empowered as a result of displacement. The short story, 'The Breast Giver' written by a Bengali Indian writer Mahesweta Devi will be analyzed alongside the primary short story to crystallize that, although 'Jashoda' does not leave her own socio-cultural context, she gains mobility from the periphery of the socio – cultural circle to the centre. However, it will be highlighted that her liberation is rather superficial as she gets further entrapped through her attempt to gain agency and this will provide the medium for the secondary argument regarding varied definitions of 'female liberation.' Hence, the paper reveals that 'female liberation' is not always brought about as a result of displacement and that 'empowerment' can have different meanings to different individuals dependent on their personality, educational background, cultural influences, family structures and the larger socio- cultural contexts. In conclusion, this paper critically challenges the belief that female liberation is achieved through severing one's bonds and leaving behind one's obligations while contributing towards reframing the perception of empowerment in order to move beyond 'catchphrases'.

Role of new media towards empowering women for socio-economic development

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Empowering women in personal and public settings, for the greater progress of the human civilization has emerged as an important requirement in recent times. The inclusion of gender equality and empowerment in millennium development goals (2000) and sustainable development goals (2015) is a key indicator of the importance the global community places on women empowerment. Women are identified as a vital human resource in improving the quality of life of a community. A country's overall development depends on the inclusion of women in its development process, as women are considered as the transmitters of culture and change. Therefore, empowering women is being regarded as a very important aspect of the overall socio-cultural and economic development of a nation. The ultimate aim of empowering women is to inspire them, support them and persuade them to come out from different adverse conditions; be it societal, cultural, economic or religious, that have traditionally, psychologically and conventionally kept them suppressed and unable to see their true strength, skills and competencies that would support the holistic development of the societies, countries and the universal development of humankind. In motivating, empowering and educating women, media can create an awakening inspiration to achieve their potential as a prime source of change in the society. With the strong influence new media has cultivated for itself, the intense and meaningful impact it can create in the society through discussions, dialogues and prompt two way communication, new media can be an essential contributor in re-defining and re-shaping the role of women in a society and empowering them to realize their full potential. In completion of this research it is expected to introduce some key findings, such as the impact new media has in redefining attitudes, values and perceptions in a society (with special focus on women), creating and leading opinions, introducing new practices, behaviours and ways of living which contribute to a progressive, liberal, socio-economically upwardly mobilized community and so on. This research will be conducted using both primary and secondary research methodologies. With regard to primary research, in-depth interviews and questionnaire surveys will be conducted with select respondents and secondary research will be done using published documents, case studies, new media sites and so on. In order to meet research requirements, a sample of about 80 respondents, representing segments such as corporate, media, entertainment, NGO, service sector, education, etc. will be contacted to gather ideas, insights and observations. As new media is considered as a potent and influential means that has the capacity to create opinions quickly across many strata of society, this research will attempt to identify how various forms of new media such as Facebook, Blogging, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, etc. can contribute positively and proactively towards empowering the Sri Lankan women community.

Key words: *Empowering women, New/social media, Development, Communication, Social transformation, Influencing change*

Feminism in contexts of Indian English literature

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This research paper, while analysing the perspectives about feminist movement in general, specifically focuses on the rise of feministic writings in Indian English literature emerged during the pre- and post- independence periods of the nation. The term 'feminism' was derived from the Latin word 'femina' meaning 'woman' and was first used with regard to the issue of equality and women's rights movement. Feminism does not especially talk of fairness and privileges of females; yet, it is more about empathy, regard and understanding from the male partners. It emerged in India partly because women were not perceived as autonomous or independent individuals. Education has also ushered in a feeling of uniqueness amongst women and has stirred an enthusiasm for their human rights. Similarly, women also needed to confront numerous problems in the scholastic circuit, which symbolizes the impacts of patriarchal society that drastically limits the extent of women's scholarly introduction. Accordingly, the emergence of the contemporary female writers was an endeavour to give freedom to the female world from the weakening sociocultural imperatives and severe myths of their particular nations. Thus, the women's activist pattern in Indian writing depicts women writers' collision with the norms of social law about women.

Keywords: *Feminism, Rights, Education*

Triple oppression and challenges to empowerment!

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This study tries to explore the debates on empowerment in the context of Dalit women in India. It engages with the shift from social to political empowerment. It will critically evaluate the theoretical perspectives, and further deals with practical aspects of Dalit women's life. For instance, socially mobile Indian women are seen as empowered through social, economic and political development. However, this study argues that caste, class and gender intersect with each other in India and leads to the marginalization of Dalit women making it the main obstacle to the empowerment of Dalit women. Thus, the main aim of this study is to analyse the empowerment of Dalit women through development indicators such as education, political participation and so on. Extensive interviews with Dalit women have been conducted as a part of to collect data and had been analysed qualitatively. Case studies of Dalit women based on those interviews are deployed to demonstrate the nuances of empowerment in caste-class-gender mediated social/political space. Moreover, the existing policies of Government in India will be examined to understand the complex lives of Dalit women. This study will be significant to strengthen the existing policies related with the marginalized women in India.

Keywords: *Feminism, Caste, Gender, Empowerment*

Journey of women from the marginalised to the liberated

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The Indian novel in English in the pre-independence period mostly remained maledominated, for there were a very few women novelists such as Toru Datt, Raj Luxmi Debi and Swarnkumari Ghoshal at the end of the 19th century. However, during the post-independence period there appeared a number of women writers like Kamla Markandey, Nayantara Seghal, Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande as well as a younger generation of novelists such as Githa Hariharan, Nina Sibal, Namita Gokhale, Shobha De, Suniti Namjoshi, Arundhati Roy and Kiran Desai, who contributed significantly to the Indian English novel and helped its development. In their novels, the appearance of the new, fully awakened woman, ready to fight against the patriarchal norms in order to live a meaningful life is a recent phenomenon. The female characters created by these writers do not accept the low secondary status in a male-dominated Indian society that is conservative. The central theme, therefore, is the emergence of the 'liberated woman' in a fast changing social milieu.

Among those novelists, Shobha De has an extra-ordinary ability to discuss the very sensitive aspects of human relationships in general and man–woman relationship in particular. She portrays a variety of women from the traditional, subjugated and marginalized to the extremely modern and liberated woman. Her novels like 'Socialite Evenings' and 'Second Thoughts' deal with themes such as family, marriage, patriarchy, quest for identity, struggle for survival and marginality.

This paper throws light on how the subjugated and marginalized woman in 'Socialite Evenings' and 'Second Thoughts' through their rebellion, achieve liberation and emancipation. She is now aware of her destination, that is, to liberate herself from the clutches of unjust taboos and customs imposed on her by the maledominated society. The modern women depicted by Shobha De do not depend, for their survival, on their fathers, husbands, or sons. They are financially independent and have the required strength to face life with all its ups and downs. They are assertive, practical and strong. They fall into the category of the new woman who solves her problems herself. In the present scenario of gender discrimination, a study of these novels helps to widen and direct our thoughts to relevant problems affecting women in the Indian society.

Keywords: *Marginalized, Liberation, Indian society, Male-dominance*

Gender, folk religion and cultural oppression: A study of the position of women in the contemporary Sinhala society

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The aim of this research is to explore the cultural oppression and how it is reflected in women in Sinhala folk religion and culture. The study was conducted in the Kandy district and data was collected through interviews, participant observation and group discussions. Additionally, literary sources were used extensively. This study is based on folk beliefs and superstitions in folk religion and culture. It helped to realize how women face cultural oppression when they participate in religious practices. In its analysis, the study utilized evolution theory, gender inequality and the gender oppression theory to understand the chronological evolution of cultural oppression of women. The influence of Hinduism can be seen in the ancient Sri Lankan society. Hinduism refers “pollution” to treat women, as an unclean category and they extremely believed that women are ‘impure’. This ‘concept of pollution’ regarding women is highly increasing within the origin of “*deva*” (Gods) worship in “folk religion” in Sri Lanka. The literature provides strong evidence for the existence of the concept of ‘taint’ (*Pollution, in Sinhala call -‘kili’*) (Palliyaguru 1986, Perera 1993, Kariyawasam 1995, 1996, Dissanayake 2004;). Accordingly, the position of woman was not quite satisfactory in the ancient Sri Lankan context. Women, in ‘taint’ are strictly banned from attending religious and agricultural events or, healing rituals and other occult practices. Consequently, this exclusion shows gender inequality in both agriculture and religion and further it caused oppression. Moreover, it was clear from the secondary sources that an environment more sympathetic towards women evolved through the belief system on superhuman forces. Folk tales and myths have provided the Sinhala society with the knowledge and experience for developing that kind of attitudes (*Myths such as Giridevi, Pattini*). In the contemporary society, when people in pray to the god in solving personal problems, they pay excessive attention to ‘purity’. Therefore, to have or to be with ‘taint’ is considered as a disqualification for participation in the case of women. In the current society, people refrain from associating with everything connected with ‘taint’ when they are engage in occult practices and rituals (*Arms giving for seven mothers, vow*). Though “Bo Tree” was brought from India to Sri Lanka by Sangamittha Thero (Woman) and Princes Hemamala (Woman) brought the Buddha’s “tooth relics” in her hair, tied in a topknot, even at present women are excluded from worship at the upper levels surrounding a “Bo tree” and excluding entering the “octagon of temple of tooth relic”. These practices of pollution did not comply with Buddhist religious values in the history, and they are assumed to exist due to the folk culture. Due to these practices, women are regarded as the “polluted” in contemporary Sri Lankan Society. Even though the Sri Lankan society has been transformed and women have achieved a remarkable role especially in the public sphere with the change of the economic and political phenomena, perceptions of women, remain in the ‘unclean’ category owing to the biological reason based on “pollution”/ “taint”. In this study, the researcher argues that though women have been empowered in the modern Sri Lankan society, culturally gender based exclusion, inequality and oppression are still in existence in Sri Lanka.

Position of women in the Indian society

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The objective of this paper is to explore the position of women in the Indian society through an analysis of secondary data, with a view to understanding the status of women more profoundly and creating a need to upgrade their position in the contemporary society. According to 2005-06 figures, only 9.2% of households in India were female-headed. However, approximately 35% of the households below the poverty-line were found to be female headed. Though it is gradually rising, the female literacy rate in India is lower than the male literacy rate. Compared to boys, far fewer girls are enrolled in the schools, and many of them drop out according to the National Sample Survey Data of 1997; only states of Kerala and Mizoram have approached universal female literacy rates. According to majority of the scholars, the major factor behind the improved social and economic status of women in Kerala is literacy. Under Non-Formal Education (NFE) programme, about 40% of the centres in states and 10% of the centres in Uts are exclusively reserved for females. As of 2000, about 0.3 million NFE centres catered to about 7.42 million children, out of which about 0.12 million were exclusively for girls. Currently, in engineering, medical and other colleges, only 30% of the seats have been reserved for females. According to a 1998 report by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the chief barrier to female education in India are antiquated school facilities (such as sanitary facilities), shortage of female teachers and gender bias in the curriculum (majority of the female characters being depicted as weak and helpless). Contrary to the common perception, a large percent of women in India are engaged in employment. The National data collection agencies accept the fact that there is a serious under-estimation of women's contribution as workers. However, there are far fewer women in the paid workforce than there are men. In rural India, agriculture and allied industrial sectors employ as much as 89.5% of the total female labour. In overall farm production, women's average contribution is estimated at 55% to 66 % of the total labour. According to a 1991 World Bank report, women accounted for 93% of total employment in dairy production in India. Women constitute 51% of the total employed in forest-based small scale enterprises. Contrary to the low position given to women in society, there are a few examples of success. One of the most famous female business success stories is the Shri Mahila Griha Udyog, the makers of the Lijjat papad. In 2006, Kiran Mazumdar-shaw, who started Biocon-one of India's first bio-tech companies, was rated India's richest woman. Lalita Gupta and Kalpana Maorparia (the only business women in India who made the list of the Forbes World's Most powerful women), run India's second-largest bank, ICICI Bank. Therefore, even though the position of women seem to be secondary to men in many sectors, there are also inspiring examples.

Keywords: *Women, Gender, Empowerment, Position*

Impact of love affairs on the future life of university female students

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Love is a fundamental requirement for all creatures in the world. It can be argued that the existence of the world heavily depends on the notion of love. Human beings feel the 'need for love' during every stage of their life cycle in general. However, it is a vivid notion among the youth as they tend to seek the affiliation of the opposite sex. This is mainly due to the natural and social need along with their physical and psychological growth. University students represent the youth population, and having a love affair among them is a common phenomenon in the university subculture. In literature, love affairs among university students have been discussed and presented as different types of case studies by means of novels, poems, rhymes and songs etc. These sources of literature provide viable hints for formulating sociological research in connection with love affairs.

The impact of love affairs on female students seems more crucial in the Sri Lankan society. A love affair is mostly considered as a success factor for marriage in every society. Accordingly, it seems that love affairs evolve up to marriage and then enrich social values. Up to the recent past, rich cultures in our society including university subculture provide evidence that love affairs is a positive factor for achieving targets of lives of men and women. However, in the present society, the notion of love affairs has become an unprecedented matter of debate or suspicious matter for parents, teachers and elders in general public.

Hence, this paper investigates the impact of love affairs on female university students' future lives. Views of randomly selected university students, lecturers, counsellors of the university and experts in the field were taken into consideration as primary data while recorded literature on the theme in books, journals, newspapers, websites etc. were used as secondary data. This study adopted sociological theories of love and marriage, particularly the Robert Steinberg's "Triangular theory of love". Synthesizing and analysing views obtained from discussions and case analysis were mainly carried out.

Results of the study reveal that a considerable number of girls are exploited sexually, physically, verbally, socially and mentally within the period of their love affairs. Serious sexual relationships are common and that has become the major interest of their affairs. Also the study found that university girls are facing greater disadvantages due to their love affairs which put them into an uncertain future destroying not only their academic life but also disappointing the whole family circles. Lack of awareness of risk factors among girls and lack of awareness of the value of girls among boys are major causes for the problem. Based on the findings of the study, it is recommended to educate the students from the beginning of their university life by means of active counselling services, students mentoring programs, developing teacher student relationship etc. to minimize the growing danger on young university students and their parents.

Keywords: *Love affairs, University students, Problems of affairs, Future life*

Emerging role of woman as an educator in India and her challenges

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This paper presents an exploration of the journey of woman from history to 'her story' in India. Apart from a survey, this paper is based on experiences and observations of the author. Being a part of an educated but traditional extended family belonging to the Indian middle class society, it is easier to understand how and why it is always difficult for a girl child or any female member of the family to lead a life with liberty and freedom. While incorporating the existing gender differences in the states of India, with special reference to Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra, into the study, the analysis, the objective of this paper was to examine how, despite the differences, in the field of education, the presence of females have increased in the last few decades and what challenges are faced by them while coming out of the four wall protection. The paper concludes that females have attempted to leave signature as an individual identity while playing the two-face role of a homemaker as well as a working woman even in the so-called 'safest job' for women.

Keywords: *Gender differences, Emerging role, Education, Job, Individuality*

A study on Internet usage by women for performing their household responsibilities

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The Internet is becoming more and more important for nearly everybody as it is one of the newest and most forward-looking media and surely “the” medium of the future. Therefore, this paper inquires about how homemakers use the Internet in their daily chores and responsibilities. Major objectives of the study were to explore the Internet usage patterns of selected homemakers, to study their household tasks in the contemporary context, to study the usage of the Internet by homemakers for performing their household tasks, to study the problems faced by homemakers while using the Internet and to make suggestions for encouraging women to use the Internet for learning purposes. The sample of the present study consisted of 110 homemakers from Vadodara city. Only the homemakers who were married and residing with children and husband and using the Internet were included in the sample of the study. The purposive and Snowball Sampling methods were used to select the sample. A structured questionnaire was used for data collection. The questionnaire was given to six experts for the purpose of validation. The data was collected in the months of January and February 2016 by survey method. Major findings of the study revealed that most of the time the Internet was used by homemakers for chatting, social networking, downloading music, file sharing, downloading applications, downloading games, listening to music and playing games. Homemakers were taking the help of the Internet to a great extent for establishing social relationships with family, friends and relatives by remaining updated on social media like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The Internet was a great guiding tool for homemakers for their kitchen management responsibilities like cooking. They have learned various recipes, a variety of breakfast items, snacks and healthy food items for their children via cooking sites. Problems faced by homemakers to a large extent while using the Internet were related to 3G recharge, which was found expensive, and other problems like difficulty in using the Internet continuously due to slow internet connectivity. It can be concluded from the present study that the Internet was used more for other purposes than for learning related to performance of household tasks. Women should be taught the effective usage of the Internet for their development and empowerment.

Keywords: *Women Homemakers, Internet Usage Patterns, Household responsibilities*

Empowering women: A case study

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Does society need to protect women or empower women? Which of the two should take precedence over the other? Is domestic violence a greater problem than lack of economic independence? These questions are not topics for debating competitions but a burning issue for half the human species. Women all over the world continuously have to run faster to even stay on in the same place. Coming from a developing country, this may seem all the more true and tragic as women achievers have struggled and continue to struggle. At the same time, it is an indisputable fact that women in India have made leaps and bounds in many fields, thanks to the vision and effective implementation of these visions. As more and more women are exposed to the possibilities available in the world today, they are ready to accept the challenges of breaking away from shackles that have bound them all these centuries, bound them in a meaningless vicious circle from which escape seemed an impossibility once.

Given a conducive atmosphere and appropriate guidance and opportunity, women have proved that they can rise above the debilitating circumstances into which they have been pushed. This paper attempts to analyse the contribution of 2 NGOs in assisting women to live a life of self-respect without fear of violence at the hands of family members: 1) Ahmedabad Women's Action Group (AWAG), which according to its website aims to protect violence against women, raise the image of women in society and support their rights thereby providing them a life of dignity, welfare, education and economic betterment and 2) Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) whose main goals, according to their official website, are to organize women workers for full employment. Full employment means employment whereby workers obtain work security, income security, food security and social security (at least health care, child care and shelter). SEWA organizes women to ensure that every family obtains full employment. Self-reliance means that women should be autonomous and self-reliant, individually and collectively, both economically and in terms of their decision-making ability. It is clear that the first and the second have variegated aims and yet contribute to raising the self-esteem of the concerned women.

Both are well-known in the state of Gujarat (in Western India) but should be used as models across states and countries and even continents. This paper attempts to analyse the efficacy of both using different methods to address and solve women's problems/issues, by providing specific cases to validate the argument. At the same time, it hopes to use a forum like this to draw attention to the possibility of its replication. It does not attempt to suggest this as a panacea, but indicate the immense possibilities inherent in women's bonding.

Keywords: *Empowering, Domestic violence, Economic independence*

Women, violence and armed conflict: Experiences from Kashmir

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Armed conflict negatively affects women and men, and results in gender-specific disadvantages, particularly for women who are not always recognized or addressed by the mainstream, gender-blind understanding of conflict and reconstruction. The impact of armed conflict on gender relations is significant. Forced displacement and gender-based violence are two examples of impact that are not inevitable outcomes of armed conflict, but rather are deliberate strategies of war that destabilize families and communities. Physical and sexual violence, terrorism, torture, disappearance, rape, ethnic cleansing, family separation and displacement particularly towards women occur with greater regularity during and after armed conflict. Moreover, they endure lifelong social and psychological traumas. In addition to representing most of the civilian casualties, women are often the sole providers for their families during armed conflicts. This leads to an increasing number of female heads of households that can be attributed to demographic changes caused by conflicts, which in turn further impoverishes women. The abrupt rise of armed conflict in Kashmir in 1989 has led to the disturbed socio-political and economic conditions of the valley giving rise to an immense number of casual deaths thereby resulting in the emergence of hundreds of guardian-less families, thousands of widows, many of orphans etc. The indirect consequences have been much adverse. Two decades of conflict has not only done irreparable loss to life and property but has done unimaginable harm to the women folk, who are at the receiving end directly and indirectly. Women in Kashmir have been continuously the victims of physical/psychological, cultural as well as economic violence. The problems that they have to face on almost on a daily basis range from teasing to rape, body searches to cordon searches, getting injured to being killed. Based on a sample of 250 respondents and using the interview schedule as the primary method of data collection, the main objective of the present paper is to highlight the trends of violence which the women of Kashmir have experienced during and after the phase of armed conflict. The findings of the paper reveal that conflict in Kashmir has spurred much higher rates of sexual violence. It renders women acutely vulnerable to poverty, the loss of jobs and the destruction of assets such as homes. It has further given rise to a new issue in the form of half-widows in Kashmir.

Keyword: *Conflict, Gender, Kashmir*

Reflections of decision making on their fertility behaviour: A qualitative study of women in urban slums in Sri Lanka

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With the acceleration of urbanization, women living in the urban communities are being neglected as they are deprived of basic standards of life. Literature has found that men play influential roles in women's decision making in general and in sexual and reproductive health.

The objective of this study was to examine women's reflections in making decisions regarding starting, spacing and stopping behaviours of fertility. An exploratory qualitative research design was conducted using purposive sampling among 15 selected married women who have completed their reproductive age in the urban shanties in Sri Lanka. Semi-structured in-depth interviews were used to gather women's experiences on decision making of their fertility behaviour. These interviews were audio-taped, transcribed, verified, coded and then analysed using qualitative content analysis. This study found that decisions on starting, spacing and stopping fertility are influenced by social, economic and cultural factors of the society. Considering the starting behaviour, most of the women (n= 8) stated that their marriages are arranged by the parents before they completed their secondary education due to poverty. Many women stated that husbands are in the view that "women are made only for child bearing" and the number of children was decided by economic status of the husband and by the in-laws. Domestic violence, husbands drinking behaviours, and low spousal communication were common experiences considered by women as factors leading to less decision-making capacity on fertility as well as the other household decisions. Most decisions were taken by the husbands and these capability of decision making is mostly related to their higher educational level and employment status. Friends were the main source of information in getting to know about contraceptive methods and they are mostly relied on traditional contraceptive methods. This study also found that women are in the view that only women needed to use contraceptives, as it's a sin for men.

Some women (n=10) used to purposively truncate their fertility within the ages of 45 due to the economic hardships, for her safety as their men are in the prison. Few stated that they became financially independent after their husband's death. All women stated that empowering women through education and income would be essential to improve their decision making on fertility behaviour. Based on these findings, the study made some suggestions such as gender empowerment programmes, participatory approaches to enhance the decision making power of women in fertility behaviour.

Empowerment of scheduled caste women through education in the 21st century: A study of Himachal Pradesh State

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Complex stratification systems in India give rise to multiplicity of categories, which often obscure the relative status of women and men within the population. Segments such as castes and tribal groups are referred to as the most disadvantaged social category. The focus of this study is on the situation of women scheduled as 'the weakest section in the society' and granted special safeguards, privileges and concessions under the Indian constitution. Women in these under- groups are doubly disadvantaged: their identity as the minority group status within the patriarchal society and statistical culture to produce deplorable living conditions. The paper presents a descriptive analysis of the Indian Drawings from both the ethnographic profile of scheduled caste women's status in the Indian society. Using Indian Census data, the study documents degrees of gender inequality among the scheduled groups. Findings indicate that relative to men, women in these groups have far more limited access to both educational and employment resources. This research also suggests that socioeconomic disadvantages help reduce the development of scheduled group of women relative to men. The scheduled groups are considered to be more developed according to standard indicators. Findings indicate less gender inequality in education and employment. Differences in the access to human capital continue to be one of the most critical dimensions of inequality of opportunity. Some of the most striking inequalities are visible along the gender dimension. For education to be equalised, it must reduce restrictions for opportunities while increasing women's access to diverse opportunities. This paper investigates the potentially powerful role education can play in improving women's lives by looking at the social/gender/economic empowerment effects of education. The data from household and labour force surveys from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan is gathered to investigate the role of education' in the outcomes of women's labour market. The economic dimension, which is one aspect of empowerment, is important as it encompasses the ability to access lucrative and rewarding occupations as well as the ability to both earn and control an income. The socio-cultural, inter-personal, political and psychological dimensions are also critical especially given the cultural constraints posed on women's lives in the SAR region. The access to two rich data sets gathered from India and Pakistan allows us to define 'empowerment' more broadly. These include women's 'control over resources and their life', 'mobility', 'participation in public life' and 'attitudes, perceptions and beliefs'. The paper documents the association between an individual's own education (as well as father's and spouse's education) and empowerment, variously defined. Finally, this paper proposes to go one step further to identify whether it is education per se or potential pathways that are correlated with education that impact women's empowerment.

Keyword: *Education, Empowerment, Scheduled caste women*

Emergence of Sri Lankan Women Writers in English Fiction

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Women in the Indian subcontinent have witnessed a long struggle to compete with men in various fields be it India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, or Sri Lanka. In this sense, the last few decades have witnessed a fabulous emergence of women writers thereby enriching the literary soil of the respective countries. The most remarkable element of such writing is that the writers try to share not only their experiences but also the experiences of other women in their works making their writings emotionally very rich. Despite this significance, the emergence of Sri Lankan women writers in English had not been adequately explored in previous studies. The objective of this study was to explore the rise of women fiction writers in English in Sri Lanka. By specifically focusing on the works of Punyakante Wijenaikē, Kumari Jayawardena, Nira Konjīt Wickramasinghe, Rosemary Rogers and Thisuri Wanniarachchi, this study examined how such writers bear the torch of English fiction in the political and social odds. It was found that women's writing in English in Sri Lanka began with the publication of Rosalind Mendis's debut novel, *The Mystery of a Tragedy*, in 1928, which was published by Arthur Stockwell of London. However, it was ineffective in creating any stir, either in literary arenas or in other women's mind: it appeared only as a rudimentary spark, in an adverse situation, to light the future literary fire. The exploration of this study noted that multiple reasons are accountable for the slower growth of women writing in Sri Lanka and of them, the most important cause is the political instability existing in the country. Nonetheless, there are still remarkable endeavours by women writers to establish themselves in the field of literature despite the turbulent condition of the country. These new waves of writers are writing on myriad themes making themselves visible among male writers. Many of these writers are very successful gaining recognition in the international arena.

Keywords: *Women writers, Sri Lanka, Fiction, English*

The role of the law on protecting female migrant workers in Sri Lanka: A critical analysis between domestic and international legal regime

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Sri Lanka is a developing country, which has opened job opportunities in foreign countries starting from the open economic system introduced in 1977. At present female population (50.7%) has increased in comparison to the male population (49.3%). Therefore, it is obvious that women have to play a significant role in the development process of the country. During the last two decades the total foreign remittance received from migrant workers has increased and the female migrant domestic workers should be appreciated for their large contribution for the national economic development. As economic producers women have been traditionally active in the labour force although labour force participation rates underestimate their participation, particularly in home-based activities in the informal sector. On the other hand, Sri Lankan migrant women make tremendous contribution to the economy, but the social consequences of this phenomenon are less understood. Migrant women are highly vulnerable in the form of protection and they are subjected to violation of their rights, which can be identified in the forms of physical, emotional, sexual, and economic. The existing protection for them, the domestic legal regime addresses this issue through fundamental rights jurisdiction, labour jurisdiction and Bureau of Foreign Employment (Amendment) Act No. 24 of 1994, which sought to remedy the deficiencies of the earlier Act No. 21 of 1985. Apart from the national legal regime the international jurisdiction comprises of the International Convention on Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discriminations against Women (CEDAW). In this backdrop, the research problem of this study is that whether the available protection ensured by the domestic and international legal regime for Sri Lankan migrant women is sufficient to protect their rights. The hypothesis of this research is that the gap between the international legal regime and the domestic legal regime and the weak policy adopted by Sri Lanka led to violate the rights of the female domestic migrant workers. The objective of this study is to critically evaluate the contemporary national laws and existing policy in relation to the protection of the rights of Sri Lankan female domestic migrant workers. To accomplish this objective it has used the qualitative research method as the methodology where necessary information will be gathered from secondary sources accessible and available in the library such as journal articles, textbooks, research and working papers, government publications, newspapers, electronic databases and e-journals. As the result of this research the author makes suggestions to strengthen the prevailing policy and laws. Finally it can be concluded that the existing laws in Sri Lanka are not sufficient to protect migrant female workers in Sri Lanka and those laws should be implemented practically.

Keywords: *Domestic migrant female workers' rights, National law regime, International law regime*

Eclectic women empowerment in women's works

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The research problem refers to the predicament of women whose desires are flouted by their husbands as portrayed in the novels of women writers. Distressed women indulge in lewd affairs with others and such offensive activities of women characters are justified by women writers in terms of women transformation for empowerment. Research objectives are intended to: explore the amoral mindset of husbands, ascertain women transformation, interpret connotative imports and nuances that underlie the eclectic standpoints of women characters. Case study method is adopted to write up this descriptive and qualitative research. Purposive and judgment samplings meant for this research consist of symbolic discourses articulated by women characters. Primary data refer to the narration of verbal outpourings and interior monologues of the distressed women characters. Secondary data relate to review literature concerned with stylistics. The technique of stylistics is applied as a tool for the interpretation and analysis of Gleaned from Deshpande's novel, these lines forming an interior monologue reel off fresh alternatives embraced by the prominent woman character Indu whose dreams are flouted by her husband: *"To accept it will be to deny the miracle of life itself. If not this stump, there is another. If not this tree, there will be others. Other trees will grow, other flowers will bloom, other fragrances will pervade other airs."* Underscored adjectival phrases are rich in nature imagery and symbolic imports. *Other trees* signifies fresh companions; *other flowers* connotes strangers of good character; *other fragrances* implies decent behaviour of new friends. Indu abandons her husband to crystallize her dreams. Paro, a libidinous prominent woman character in Gokhale's novel, ventilates her inner fury against the deceitful pretences of people in these lines: *"Women liberation isn't so chic any more. It has become a little dated...Fashionable women are not liberated anymore; it is all morchas and placards and sweaty types shouting about dowry and bride burning."* Paro, the most beautiful and alluring woman character in the novel, is sexually exploited even by aged persons. Her characterization savours literary erotica. The findings of above novels reveal the truth that modern women writers have drifted from the conventional, insipid portrayal of enduring, self-sacrificing and austere women towards keen deliberations over the self-centric, egoistic and promiscuous attributes of the empowered, new woman, that women writers write to earn international prizes through their literary smuts is debatable.

Keywords: *Eclectic standpoints, Connotative imports, Interior monologues, Women predicament.*

Women's writings in India: The beginning of the journey

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The journey of women's writings in India began in the early nineteenth century. This paper is a study of the evolution of women's writings, the factors that contributed to this evolution and the social and political influences that paved its way. The paper shall also throw light on the different stages of development of feminist writings and how the focus of the writings changed with the changing times. The study shall analyse some path breaking early works that are almost documents of the despicable conditions of the women of that era. Women writing in Pre-Independence India marked the early phase of the expanse of women writing. It can be called the most difficult period as it was in this phase that women learned to read and write and that too was amongst opposition even from within the family. They were often self-taught yet they wrote and even managed to publish. These works carry the social history of the growth of women in a patriarchal society. They began with memoirs and autobiographies, moving on to the celebration of selfhood and individualism. Later on, they wrote articles to reform the society and status of women. After 1930, women were part of the freedom movement so their works pictured the impact of socio-political movements in women's liberation. It was the effort of these indomitable women that opened avenues for the future women writers. The paper throws light on how they conquered the patriarchal hegemony and stood victorious in their strife. The contribution of these early women writers is immense but has not been attributed its due. These women laid the foundation of the rebellious writings that were done in the time that followed this era. The study clearly indicates that without their fight against patriarchal dominance, Indian literature would not be what it is today.

Keywords: *Women's writings, Patriarchy, Struggle*

ABSTRACTS
POSTER PRESENTATION

Factors which affect coastal erosion of Muhudukatuwa- Marawila region and its impacts

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Coastal erosion is a natural process in which rocks and sediments at the shoreline breakdown as a result of the action of waves, tidal action, wind, storm surge, rain and surface runoff. Coastal erosion has been identified as a major hazard in many coastal areas in Sri Lanka, particularly most densely populated areas of northwest and southwest coastline areas. Muhudukatuwa-Marawila in Puttlam District is one of the most severely eroding coastal regions of the northwest coastal line in Sri Lanka. The main aim of the study was to investigate factors that cause coastal erosion in the region and their impacts. Families who were affected by coastal erosion, from 642 numbers of total families, both north and south Muhudukatuwa Gramaseva Divisions were selected for the study. Then, considering observations, semi structured interviews, available maps and archival data; some factors that contribute to coastal erosion in the region could be identified. Irregular constructions in the coastline, construct irregular groynes and combs walls have contributed in increasing the coastal erosion of Muhuduatuwa-Marawila Coastal line. This issue has a direct impact on the region's fishery industry, hotel industry and other properties of the people. Recent efforts taken by the governments such as creating artificial beaches, boulders and stones, are not sufficient to find a permanent or lasting solution to this problem, because, coastal erosion is one of the major problems caused by global warming today. Most of the coastal areas, particularly small islands in Asian and Pacific region, are already affected by sea erosion due to the rising of sea level. Further, it is expected to study the possibility and effectiveness of rehabilitating the affected community and to propose alternative solutions such as appropriate mitigation techniques, providing them with new lands and houses away from coastal line and proposing proper buffer zones.

Keywords: *Coastal erosion, Sea waves, Sea level rise, Rehabilitating, Muhudukatuwa – Marawila coastal line*

Outpatient attendance in Sri Lanka

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Sustainability in supply chain is another dimension where only a few studies have been done in Sri Lanka, related to the public (health) sector. In Sri Lanka, patient care services are provided to patients under two categories namely inpatient care and outpatient care. Finding the reason for spending time in tertiary care when the primary care is available is the main purpose of the study. The study is done in the Eye Hospital in the Department of Colombo outpatient. The study examines the attendance of patients to eye hospital spending time and money from outstations when the services are also available in primary care institutions. One of the main reasons would be the process or the care given by the primary institutions. The reasons for not attending primary care institutions in their own areas were further examined. The highest out patient attendance can be seen in Divisional Hospital Type C followed by Divisional Hospital Type B. Information on clinics visits in 2012 shows an increasing trend compared to previous years and visits are higher in Teaching Hospitals. Hence, it is evident that patients bypass small medical institutions, particularly those in the rural areas that have only minimal facilities for patient care. The research further shows that the application of Lean supply chain management practices has improved the patient care process by reducing the time taken to treat patients in primary care institutions in their own areas. The result of the implementation will encourage the patients to visit these primary care institutions. This will reduce the number of visits to eye hospital and reduce the overcrowding during the clinic days (every Wednesday), satisfying the patients of the hospital.

Keywords: *Sustainability, Lean supply chain, Value stream mapping*

Buddhist and Freudian analysis on dreams

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Seeing dreams in sleep is common to both human-beings and animals. Attention on dreams from both western and eastern perspectives has been there since a long period of time. The aim of this paper is to convince the need for a newer study on the western and the eastern analysis on dreams. The descriptive and analytical methods were applied. Attention was paid to the Buddhist canonical *suttas*, the questions of Milinda, *Saddharmaratnakara*, and *Jataka* stories to figure out the Buddhist concept of dreams. Bodhisatva has seen dreams and there is a connection with the ultimate reality of the dreams seen by the Buddha-to-be. Going to bed unmindfully affects to see nightmares whereas going to sleep mindfully triggers pleasant dreams. Everyone experiences dreams except for someone who has eradicated all the defilements. However Buddhism rejects the studies on dreams as it is considered to be useless. Dreams are experienced during one's monkey sleep time period, which is experienced in between sleeping and not sleeping.

Dreams seen by the queen Mahamya, Bodhisatva and the sixteen dreams of king Kosala are considered to be omens. Flying through tempered air, fire through tempered anger, playing in the water through tempered phlegm are Dhtusobha dreams. Dreams seen through actions done are nuhtapra Dreams. Dreams seen through divine recapitulation are considered to be dreams made by gods. Sigmund Freud has composed "The Interpretation of Dreams" considering and deeply studying his personal experiences as well as the dreams of the patients that came to him. According to the Freudian analysis, dreams are the fruitful wishes/ aspirations. So dreams are directly the results of the desires, which are longcherished in the subconsciousness and the consciousness. Children's dreams and wishes are the similar nature since they have not socially disciplined whereas the adults' dreams and wishes have symbolic nature due to the fact that they are socially disciplined. The symbols of dreams have been elaborated in the Freudian analysis. The Buddhist idea on dreams seen as omens has a connection with the Freudian idea of dreams, which says dreams are the results of desires. This is found in Ummagga Jataka story and also it connects with the idea of nuhtapra dreams, which suggest that dreams are coming from the sub consciousness and the consciousness. According to the Freudian explanation, what is in the consciousness comes as dreams. This means that past happenings are described in dreams. According to the Buddhist concept, future happenings are foreseen through dreams.

Keywords: *Dreams, Buddhism, Sigmund Freud, Ummagga Jataka*

The Impact of out-of-pocket expenditure of diabetic patients on household consumption: A case study in Kurunegala teaching hospital

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According to the World Health Organization, diabetes is a chronic disease that requires medical treatment and care for a prolonged time. Despite the existence of a free healthcare system in the country, patients are compelled to bear the cost of medication and related expenditure for a considerable period of time, perhaps throughout the lifetime. Therefore, the financial burden of diabetes may have a significant impact on household expenditure. Then the question emerging from this problematic situation, 'whether Out of Pocket Expenditure (OPE) for treating and caring diabetes has an impact on household consumption'. Since diabetic population in Sri Lanka is nearly four million, findings of this study may be useful to identify the attributes of OPE for diabetes of this larger population. Therefore, this study is based on Kurunegala teaching hospital. The major data collecting instrument was by a questionnaire developed, after translating cost concepts into questions which are pre-tested to understand whether respondents clearly understand the questions targeted to collect data and data were collected from a sample of 50 patients attended to the Diabetes clinic of the hospital. Due to time constraint, conveniencesampling method was applied to collect data from patients in the diabetes clinic of January 2016. Data were analyzed using SPSS. Simple linear regression was calculated to predict the impact of OPE on household consumption ($F(1, 48) = 1.643$ $p < .206$) with R^2 of .033. These results suggest that the impact of OPE on household consumption is not significant. The results of this study also suggest that treatments for diabetic patients by state hospitals are satisfactory and out of pocket expenditure for diabetic treatment has no significant effect on household consumption.

Keywords: *Out of pocket expenditure, Diabetes, Household consumption*

An evaluation of Green Environmental Planning in Brandix Casual Wear Ltd,
Seeduwa, Sri Lanka

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With the globalization we are getting rid of inspiring natural environment the minute by minute. As a result of that, the global warming is increasing with many bad effects for the living and non-living things. Therefore, organizations are highly involved with different kinds of environmental planning nowadays. Green Environmental Planning (GEP) is one of them. GEP has five main components, such as; Energy Management, Eco-Friendly Work Environment, Temperature Controlling, Eco-Friendly Color Usage, Garbage Management.

This paper was based on an evaluation of GEP in Brandix Casual Wear Ltd, Seeduwa, Sri Lanka. The main objective of the study was to evaluate the effectiveness of GEP in Brandix Casual Wear Ltd, Seeduwa, Sri Lanka. The five main components of GEP were examined in this study as independent variables and the dependent variable was the effectiveness of the GEP. The effectiveness of GEP was measured by using ecologically valid questions in the questionnaire (a five point likert scale was used). The sample was selected by using the simple random method. Sixty employees were selected from a total population of one hundred and forty. The data collection method deals with primary data (questionnaire, discussions and personal observations) and secondary data (books, journals, and Internet articles). Data was analyzed using the mix method i.e. qualitative and quantitative.

It was found that all the reliabilities fall into two categories (good and moderate) in accordance with Cronbach's Alpha value. It means that all the questions of the questionnaire are powerful enough to measure the relationship between two variables. The correlation analysis revealed that the existing GEP has less impact on effectiveness of GEP in Brandix. It was identified that the Temperature Controlling, Garbage Management, Eco Friendly Work Environment, and Eco-Friendly Color Usage have weak positive relationships with the effectiveness of GEP and there is no relationship between Energy Management and the effectiveness of GEP. According to all these findings, it can be postulated that the GEP was not up to the standard level in Brandix Casual Wear Ltd, Seeduwa, Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Globalization, Global warming, Green environmental planning, Effectiveness*

A comparative analysis between Phenomenology and the Qualia concept in modern mind studies

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Phenomenology and the concept of Qualia are two argumentative types of philosophical movements in the subject area Philosophy of Mind. The objectives of this research are to examine the ways in which Phenomenology and the concept of Qualia are independent and interrelated to each other and to analyze how Phenomenology and the concept of Qualia have contributed to the development of the subject Philosophy of Mind. This research will also investigate whether it is possible to analyze the state of the mind if Phenomenology and the concept of Qualia are not taken into consideration. Qualia are the irreducible fact that the things that appear to us have a way of appearing such that they appear to "Me". It is a way of referring to the experiential quality of, well, experience. Some phenomenological methods take the qualia of the phenomena into account, while some phenomenological methods attempt to get beyond the qualia of the appearing thing, or what might be called the intentionality of the thing. Phenomenology comprises many different philosophical methods and theories; it typically involves looking to the phenomenon (the things as they appear) and reasons from there concerning all manner of philosophical problems. Qualia is the irreducible fact that the things that appear to us have a way of appearing such that they appear to oneself. The results of this research reveals that that both these concepts are equally needed. Phenomenology defines the mental states and Qualia defines the quality of the mental states.

Keywords: *Phenomenology, Qualia concept, Philosophy of mind*

Effect of the temporal climatic variation on paddy cultivation: A case study on the Anuradhapura district

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Since the beginning of our civilization, climate has been one of the most important phenomena for human beings, especially in relation to farming. In Sri Lanka, paddy cultivation significantly contributes to the economy and Anuradhapura is one of the main areas, which produces crops for the consumption. Moreover, it is the base of Sri Lankan agriculture and the irrigation system. Anuradhapura has a long history regarding the tanking system called 'Wev Bandi Rajya' (kingdom full of Tanks). There had always been a positive relationship between climate and the paddy cultivation. There are two seasons of paddy cultivation called 'Yala' and 'Maha'. May, June, July, belong to the 'Yala Kannaya' and November, December, January and February belong to the 'Maha Kannaya'. However, some fluctuations of paddy harvest have been recorded recently. Thus, it is important and a timely need to find out the reasons for such fluctuations. I have chosen climate as the assumed reason in order to conduct my research successfully. Accordingly, the objective of the research was to identify whether there is a direct influence from climate on fluctuations of the paddy cultivation in Anuradhapura district or not, and to examine the reasons pertaining to the fluctuations. The study was based on primary data collected from 30 interviewers in the Thabbowa village and the secondary data from relevant institutions. According to empirical evidences there is a direct relationship between the climate and the paddy cultivation. Harvest of the paddy was comparatively less, than the previous decade. Droughts, heavy rains, pre rain and post rain are the causative factors for the fluctuations in the cultivation. It can be proved through statistical evidences that the paddy harvest has been reduced due to irregularities in rainfall. In 2010, in Maha kanna rainfall was 1361.7 ml and the harvest of that period was 15381 Mt. In 2011 rainfall and the harvest in Maha kanna was respectively 651.9ml and 356020 Mt. From the primary data, it could be identified that the climate is not the only reason, which has an impact on harvests. Reasons pertaining to the government (subsidies), high labor cost, and modern technical errors committed by the farmers are the other negative factors that had affected cultivation. In conclusion, the study revealed that there is a direct relationship between climate and paddy harvesting, but climate cannot be fully accountable for all the impacts on fluctuations of cultivation, especially the declining of the harvest. There are other significant causative factors, which create a strong influence on cultivation.

Keywords: *Heavy Rains, Pre-rain, and Post-rain*

Internet – A support system for working women

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With the growing needs of humans, it has become a challenge for women to fulfill all her responsibilities and perform all roles at the same time. Therefore, her dependency on family members, helpers/maids, friends, neighbors and the media has increased. Media, here, includes print media (i.e. newspaper, magazine, and tabloids), electronic media (i.e. television, radio) and new media (i.e. internet and mobile technology). Women still have to do the greater share of housework despite being employed outside in increasing numbers. Previous research has found that they spent three times as long on domestic chores, such as cooking, cleaning and washing, as their husbands or partners. Women, the breadwinners, however, have to shoulder the burden of all the housework. The present study was undertaken with an objective to assess the role of internet in helping working women to perform their household responsibilities effectively. The sample of the present study consisted of 110 working women homemakers from Vadodara city. The purposive and Snowball Sampling methods were used to select the sample of the study. A Structured Questionnaire was used for the Data Collection. Major findings of the study were included that the majority of working women (63.63%) used smartphone as a device used to access Internet. Little more than thirty percent of working women (33.64%) spent 1- 2 hours per day on the Internet. Majority of the working women (62.73%) were using the Internet for 1- 5 years. Most of the time the Internet was used by the respondents for emailing, social networking, chatting, getting news, file sharing, watching videos, listening to music, checking latest fashion, learning new recipes etc. Findings related to household responsibilities revealed that the majority of them (95.45%) cooked meal for the family members. Less than fifty percent shared responsibility of buying grocery, vegetables, and fruits for the family. A higher number of the working women (82.72%) had the responsibility to gather information regarding the bank accounts. Findings related to the Internet usage for household responsibilities revealed that the respondents fulfilled household responsibilities of kitchen management of learning various recipes and preparing breakfast items to a high extent. The working women carried responsibilities like helping children in their school projects and homework and providing moral education lessons, science projects, math projects and creative activities of the children to a high extent. Social responsibilities like connecting with family, friends and relatives and remaining updated on social media like Facebook, twitter and Instagram etc. was carried to a high extent by them. The working women used internet for getting ideas for home décor to higher extent. The working women executed responsibility of managing shares and investments, managing money for bills, online recharges and for net banking and preparing budgets of household and office use to a moderate extent with the help of internet. From the findings of the study it can be concluded that the Internet is used as a support system to perform their household tasks and responsibilities in an efficient manner. It is empowering married working women to train, update and perform their roles as mothers, and wives to sustain in the institution of marriage and family life.

Keywords: *Internet, Women, Empowering, Household responsibilities*

A psychological study of suicide survivors by burning

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Suicide is an act of purposely ending one's own life. Attempting to suicide has become a major problem in the society. Suicides are increasing by degrees, mainly due to psycho-social problems. The suicide methods vary depending on the time. Among all forms of self-harm, burning by fire is the rarest and, potentially irremediable. The current study was carried out to investigate the psychological background of the suicide survivors, admitted to burns unit in the General Hospital, Colombo. The study focused on findings related to the mental status of the survivors when they attempt to suicide. Employing a simple random sampling method, 25 patients who admitted to the burns unit in years 2014-2015, were selected as the sample. Data was collected through in – depth interviews with the relations of survivors and, the hospital reports of the patients have been utilized as secondary data sources. Findings revealed that 90% survivors were suffering from frustration, shock and mental disorders like stress and morbid jealousy before attempting suicide. Depression and borderline personality disorders are the most frequently diagnosed conditions that they suffer from after the suicide. The main reason for these mental disorders is recognized as the “deformation” due to the burns. When it is burnt more than 20%, it is very harmful for outer and inner skin. The study recommended that counseling treatments of counselors and psychotherapy of psychiatrists also support the survivors' spouses to resolve psychological problems of the suicide survivors. The study concludes that the suicide survivors did not suffer from psychotic mental disorders before attempting the suicide and deformation is the main reason. Thus, survivors suffered from depression after the suicide by burning.

Keywords: *Deformation, Depression, Mental disorder, Borderline personality disorder, Suicide survivors*

A study on the effectiveness of school counselors in Sri Lanka

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School counselling is a collaborative effort between the counsellor and student. Professional school counsellors help students to identify goals and potential solutions to problems which cause emotional sensation and improve their coping skills, strengthen self-esteem, promote behavioral change and optimize mental health. Mainly these school counselors provide a variety of services to students with disabilities involving in the development of student's educational process. The purpose of this research was to examine whether school counsellors effectively contribute to solve student's problems. The sample for the study consisted of a school counselor of Sripali College - Horana, and 50 students from grade 6 to grade 13 of the same school. The sample was randomly selected and data were gathered by using in depth interviews and questionnaires. Findings revealed that the services of school counselors have a positive effect on children; in particular children who are experiencing family problems report that school counselors help them. School counselors have effectively prevented students from committing suicide. School counseling decreases classroom disturbance and school counselors have a positive impact on student's academic performance. Furthermore, school counseling appears to increase productive behavior of students and decrease their disruptive behaviors. All students were satisfied with the counselor's service to solve their all kinds of problems. The study recommends a more effective school counseling service as such a system would help students to solve their problems and get more involved in the educational process.

Keywords: *Anxiety, Mental health issues, Obsessive compulsive disorder, Phobia, School counselor*

The probability of a middle-path between religion and secularity

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Religion is portrayed as a barrier to human intellect by some people. The organized religion is considered to be an enemy of science and philosophy. This conflict between faith and investigation is apparent in history. Modern world with its scientific knowledge seems to rely on technologically improved materials to reduce the unease of mankind. This has led people to deviate from ancient systems of knowledge, including religion. The world is on the way of de-mystifying things, being equipped with better scientific explanations. This is a positive impact of secularization. The present study aims to examine how far the superstitious concepts of religion suit to a society with better scientific explanations and to explore the probability of suggesting better modern day applications of religious concepts. This is primarily a textual study based on several discourses in the Theravada Buddhist canon. The relevant Buddhist discourses including Sandakasutta, Vimamsakasutta, Apannaka-sutta, Saṅgāra-sutta, Devadaha-sutta and so on are taken into discussion, pointing out their ethical contributions for a society which has been secularized to a considerable extent. These discourses in fact imply that even without the presence of religion, mankind is capable of following a moral code. This approach might be controversial because Buddhism is arguably considered as a religion. Religion might be better than science as a spiritual way to be encountered with current problems. But the superstition in religion is criticized as a ground for ignorance and irrationality. Therefore, religion is outdated in this age of reason, according to some people. Religion promotes other-worldly solutions when science is on the way of pleasing mankind with material benefits. None of these are capable of presenting a satisfactory worldview. But, the tools in both religion and science can be integrated together in order to build up an ethical guideline. If religious doctrines are followed in a pragmatic and humanistic way, no superstitious authorities are needed to justify actions. This would inevitably pave the way to an “ethic without belief system”. In other words, the wall between secularity and spirituality will be broken which is why the ideas like “Secular Spirituality” came into existence. It is argued in this paper that religion without dogma and secularity without materialism would be equally beneficial to mankind. Even though religion and secularity are perceived as two irreconcilable phenomenon at first sight, there is much to gain by taking a middle path, as concluded.

Keywords: Religion, Intellect, Secularity, Secular spirituality, Irrationality

A study on Buddhist perspective for mental intoxicants

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A combination of thoughts and worries have negative effects on the body's responses. The Lord Buddha said that health is the wealth and it includes the mental and physical health. Today the mental intoxicants cause mental diseases throughout the world. "Asava" is the word for mental intoxicants in the Buddhism. Defilement is the common term for the word related to mental stress in the Buddhist psychology. The stress is introduced as "Aashrava" in Sanskrit and as "Aasava" in Pali. The word "Aasava" means the form of spread, liquid and dull as liquor. Robert H Thoulous, the famous psychologist of the Cambridge University says that there are so many psychological concepts related to the stress in the Buddhist psychology. He also says that it is not difficult to find a similar word for "Aasava" in the modern psychology and he reveals that mental stress is the most suitable modern term for the Pali term "Āsava". He says that there are relationships among depression, aversion and perversion for the term of "Aasava". There are so many similar words for mental intoxications as defilements, influxes influence, tension, pressure or stress. There are so many discourses related to intoxications in the Buddhist teaching such as Sabbasavasutta and Sathipattanasutta. According to these, stress can be controlled by doing long breathing or Anapanasathi. It is also a fruitful method to eradicate the stress from the mind and have a better mental health for a person. The other important method to get rid of stress is the loving kindness meditation. This study will help the people throughout the world to live with a healthy mind. There are standard stress responses. Some of them are increased blood pressure, increased pulse rate, a heart pounding feeling in the chest, dilatation of the pupils, dry mouth and increased perspiration, especially on the palms and the tension of the muscles. Fast shallow breathing and fatigue are also some the characteristics. The main objective of this study is to discover the methods and practical approaches in Buddhism and introduce them in to the modern world to eradicate the stress and side effects of it. The mind is the immediate cause for all of the physical and mental diseases. Then this study elicits the methods in Buddhist Psychology to purify the mind and the activities to follow for that. The study also reveals the causes for mental inconvenience and also find out the solutions for them. However the study generally has the practical value of Buddhist Psychology for the modern world and it discovers the nature of the pragmatism of Buddhist Psychotherapy.

Keywords: *Intoxicants, Defilement, Eradicate, Perversion, Buddhist psychology*

The Evolution of Sri Lankan Comics: A study on the visual and thematic transformation of comics in Sri Lanka

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A comic is a form of expression, loved and enjoyed by many people across the world. It is a short illustrative depiction of a story that is supported with or without words. Comics are often humorous but can also depict a deeper message. This form of expression is carried largely on print media such as newspapers and tabloids. The transformational journey of Sri Lankan comics began before 1960's when comic artists stopped mimicking the west and started creating relevant political comic material. However, with the introduction of the television with hours of broadcasting of foreign animated cartoons eventually led to the decline of the comic industry. The information age singlehandedly annihilated the comic industry. Thus ended the transformation of Sri Lankan comics. This study hopes to study the key highlights of this once thriving industry. It studies the transformation of comics in Sri Lanka thematically and visually. It studies the transformation of comics in Sri Lankan comics. This research also shows the impact of the digital platform on the comic industry in the country, hoping to inspire and preserve its mission in the society.

Keywords: *Sri Lankan comics, Evolution, Unique style, Transform*

The community at Wanathamulla: A study of a living community's memories and histories

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Despite being located in the heart of metropolitan Colombo, there is a perceived marginalization of the Wanathamulla community in the context of the 'authorized residents/ consumers' of urban Colombo. This study tries to understand the memories and histories of the Wanathamulla community, and to explore how they transform into the present day conditions of a living community as they exist and continue to live in this congested urban setting. The research also captures the complexities and nuances of their individual and collective memories and how these are transferred to their stories and tales. Furthermore, it explores the inheritance of congested spaces and how practicality, living conditions, and specific needs have taken precedence in formulating various ways of working and existing that help define the lives of Wanathamulla dwellers.

The research was conducted as an ethnographic study using a combination of participant observation, extensive case studies on selected individuals, collection of life histories, memories and oral history, document analysis, and in-depth interviews with community members and outsiders. This study is a nonexperimental modern analogue and involves a living community with direct interactions with its members on a range of age groups and social strata. The study used a combination of primary, secondary, qualitative, and quantitative data with a clear qualitative thrust.

In exploring the Wanathamulla community, one can see a clear formation of three distinct groups based on the location/type of their respective housing. The first group included people at the outward border, closest to the main road. This community can be seen to aspire to better their condition. This is apparent in the way the house owners have started building up with a second or even third floor, culminating in a roof-top garden and clothes hanging space. Secondly, the Wanathamulla flats are of four to ten stories. The conditions change as one ascends the staircase or mounts the lift. The top floors are in stark contrast to the bottom floors, and seem as if the climb brings with it, upward mobility for the dwellers, economically and socially. People who live just beside the waterfront belong to the third group. This is the Dematagoda Canal, which snakes through and defines one borderline. The people in this low-lying area continuously live with the imminent threat of floods. Their houses are more congested and are smaller in size and the decadent nature of the environment is more noticeable. In terms of income levels, they are on the lowest rungs and live with lower aspirations and with mundane, hand-to-mouth sort of existence.

Keywords: *Urban slums, Informal settlements, Wanathamulla, Memories and histories, Intangible heritage*

Main factors for biological degradation in Bellanwila-Attidiya wetland in Sri Lanka

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Wetlands are indispensable ecosystems, which provide countless services to the environment due to their biological and physical characteristics. It is the most important ecosystem that helps to recharge groundwater, maintain groundwater quality, mitigate the impacts of storm damages and flooding, store carbon, and control pests. The Ramsar Convention originated due to the importance of the wetlands, with the objective of protecting the wetlands worldwide. Wetlands of Sri Lanka also maintain the environmental balance and increase the biodiversity. However, at present, this ecosystem has been affected by many anthropogenic factors. This research explored the main factors responsible for the reduction and biological degradation of wetlands by studying the Bellanwila-Attidiya wetland. It is also one of the bird sanctuaries of the country, which has been degraded due to various factors. This research attempted to study the biological degradation and factors that affected the Bellanwila-Attidiya wetland. The objectives of the study were achieved through methods of discussions, administration of a questionnaire, and direct observations. GIS mapping and statistical methods were used to analyse the data. Results show that both existing and invasive species live in this ecosystem. The study identified 168 bird species, 77 butterfly species, 37 dragonfly species, 30 reptile species and more than 30 fish species. In addition, 70 plant species that provide many habitats for other animal organisms were found. 7 animal species and 9 plant species were identified as invasive species. An important finding was that 5 plant species, 17 bird species, 2 reptile species, 6 dragonfly species and 8 fish species were identified as in endanger. Industrial and house waste dumping, clearing vegetation cover, illegal residential, hunting animals, informal development activities and uncontrolled distribution of invasive species were identified as the main factors for biological degradation of the Bellanwila-Attidiya wetland. Thus, it can be concluded that the Bellanwila-Attidiya wetland is critically in danger and rapidly degrading due to many anthropogenic activities. The outcomes of this research are very important for the general public to be aware of the degradation of this important wetland and the policy makers to realize the inadequacy of available conservation activities.

Keywords: *Bellanwila- Attidiya wetland, Aggressive organisms, Bird sanctuary, Biological degradation*

Challenges for women employability in the tourism industry of Sri Lanka

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Gender imbalance in employment is recognized as a huge issue in the world economy. Even in the 21st century, with emerging technology and development, the situation remains the same. Revolution of technology affects every other sector in the world economy. Although thousands of new job opportunities are born, there isn't much development in women's contribution to economy. It is also obvious when referring to the World Bank reports. As a South Asian country, Sri Lanka has the same situation. Gender contribution to economy has remarkable differences sector wise as well. Among those sectors, tourism sector is very popular. It ranks the 3rd in the Sri Lankan economy. After 30 years of war, tourism is booming in the country opening thousands of job opportunities. It continuously contributes to the development of macro economy. However, the problem is that tendency of women to engage in tourism industry is remarkably at a lower rate. Therefore, the objective of this research study was to explore reasons for less women employability in tourism industry and provide recommendations to minimize them. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used. Primary data were collected by administering a questionnaire to 150 respondents (by using the random sample method), and conducting interviews with the experts in the field. As secondary data, books, journals, reports, magazines and articles were referred to. The questionnaire was given to people who are directly employed in tourism (in 3 star and 5 star hotels, airlines, travel agencies and national tourist organization of Colombo suburb area). Specified limitation was, no any single calculation of female employment contribution to tourism industry was found in Sri Lanka. The findings of this study provide evidence that social, cultural, biological and professional reasons affect less female contribution to tourism. One major reason for less contribution to economy both locally and globally is women's less preference to be engaged in tourism industry. According to the findings, this is due to the nature of tourism industry, general problems within the industry and the lack of social recognition for such jobs. In conclusion, it is a huge responsibility of the government and every institution related to travel and tourism to empower females in tourism industry and implement laws and legislations and strengthen flexibility and security of the working environment.

Keywords: Women employability, Tourism, Economy, Sri Lanka

A discourse-pragmatic analysis of the language of All Progressives Congress (APC) and its effect on Nigeria's economy

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Nigeria's 2015 presidential election was as phenomenal as it was unprecedented, and it resulted in an opposition party, *All Progressive Party (APC)*, unseating its incumbent counterpart, *People's Democratic Party (PDP)*. One of the many factors that contributed to the former's victory was its avalanche of utterances to electorate, which were full of promises and hope. Now that it has taken the position of a governing party, the APC continues with utterances regarding its government and the future of Nigeria. The intent of this paper, therefore, is to subject these utterances to a discourse-pragmatic analysis with a view to discussing their impact on the economic development of the nation. To achieve this, samples of the utterances were collected from selected four national dailies: for the pre-election utterances, only those published from January, 2014 to the election period were collected while the post-election ones are those published from 29 May, 2015 (the swearing-in day) to date. The data was analysed using John Austin's *Speech Acts Theory* as a theoretical guide, and will be subsequently discussed in terms of how they affect the economic development of Nigeria. The effects of the utterances on Nigeria's economy will be analysed using descriptive statistics like line chart, graph and frequency tables. Variables such as market capitalization, foreign direct investment, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and consumer price index (CPI) as well as economic policies, projects and programmes so far implemented will be the major economic indicators upon which the impact of the utterances will be evaluated. Finally, it is presumed that the findings of the study will show that the APC's language in general has a direct bearing on the country's economic development.

Keywords: *Discourse-pragmatic, APC, Speech Acts, Utterances, Economy*

A sociological study of the socio-economic background of the three-wheeler drivers in Rathnapura, Ambilipitiya and Wallavaya areas

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During the past decade or so Sri Lanka has seen a rapid growth in youth, early school leavers and people from lower income groups taking into the occupation of being three wheeler drivers. Considering this growing trend and the impact it has on the country's economy and socio-cultural situation, this research is conducted. Through this research, it is expected to understand the socio-economic background of three wheeler drivers in Sri Lanka.

The main reasons for three-wheel occupation are as follows. The primary reason is the inability to fulfil the growing demand for transportation in terms of public or private transport. Secondly, the lack of alternative transport forms in some rural areas. Finally the three wheeler drivers provide a flexible transportation service. This service commenced in 1978 and it has become the most popular private transportation method in present day Sri Lanka, because many low-income group people take into this occupation and a large number of commuters use this service. The objective of this research was to study the social, economic background of three wheel drivers in Sri Lanka, as they seem to possess a very strong sub-culture that protects their interests and prevents unwanted or undesirable elements penetrating into their strongholds or territories.

The study was carried out in Rathnapura, Ambilipitiya and Wallavaya areas. A random group of 674 three-wheeler drivers were selected as a sample. A questionnaire based survey, interviews and observation methods were used for data collection. The research revealed that 64% of three wheeler drivers' education was limited to O/L qualifications. A surprising 46% claimed a daily income of only Rs. 500-1,000. Further, a 33% of the three wheeler drivers whom we contacted received a monthly income of Rs. 20,000-30,000. Another 35% of the drivers were involved in farming as a secondary income because they do not have a permanent source of income nor the earnings from the three wheeler was not enough to make the ends meet. Out of the research group, 77% were married and another 51% of them were drug addicts. Considering the above observations, the overall objective of this research is to prove that the socio-economic conditions of three wheel drivers are still in a very backward and deprived condition.

Keywords: *Occupation, Society, Three wheel service, Education, Transport service*

Social and cultural changes in Maththala village, in the Hambantota district, Sri Lanka

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Maththala is situated in the Hambantota district in the Southern province of Sri Lanka. It is a traditional village that was recently developed due to the establishment of a new airport. Thus, present villagers' traditional ways of life have changed and it has become a major discussion among academics. The present research was conducted to find out the consequences of the rapid change of the Maththala culture. There are about 300 families in Ihala and Pahala Maththala Grama Niladari Divisions. Forty families (20 from each village) were randomly selected and data was gathered through a questionnaire survey. From the Maththala development project, they have not received expected economic advantages. Chena and Paddy cultivation were their major subsistence pattern. When the new project was introduced, they abandoned their traditional ways of life and built new shops, apartments, hotels etc. expecting more income. Now the traditional occupations as well as their hopes for a better future are disappearing. Though they tried to acquire new social and cultural life, weakness of the development project has shattered their hopes. Thus, now they are lost between two social and cultural lives. Applied anthropological knowledge could be used to reduce the impact towards the people and the culture of the area.

Keywords: *Culture, Development projects, Applied Anthropology*

Internet usage among undergraduates in a state university of Sri Lanka

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In present globalizing society, the Internet has become a storehouse of knowledge and information. It has been the major medium for the worldwide educational system and has a considerable impact on higher education, which prefers to use a 'student-centered learning' method. Thus, universities have provided free Wi-Fi areas their students to facilitate them with an updated knowledge. However the quantity and the purposes of the Internet usage among undergraduates have not been discussed widely in the Sri Lankan context. Therefore, the present research is aimed to discover the extent and purposes of the Internet usage among undergraduates in one of the state universities in Sri Lanka. Data was gathered from randomly selected 200 students through a questionnaire survey (50 from each faculty - Arts, Management, Applied science and Medical faculty). In-depth interviews were also conducted with 8 undergraduates (2 from each faculty) for more information. The study was conducted between February 2015 and February 2016. Sixty percent of the respondents were females and 40% were males. Seventy eight percent of the undergraduates have personal computers and 22% do not own a computer. Forty six percent of them have experience in using the Internet for more than 5 years. 23% of them had three-year experience, 28% had two-year experience and only 3% had one-year experience. Seventy two percent of the undergraduates have learnt to use the Internet by themselves, 22% from their friends and 6% through computer courses. Interestingly, 53% of them claimed that they have got addicted to social media, 33% browse the Internet without a purpose and 14% of them have got addicted to pornography web-sites. Fifty-eight of the undergraduates use the Internet via mobile phones, 38% via personal laptops and 5% from the university computer center while 1% them through internet cafes. Sixty percent of the art faculty undergraduates spent 5 hours on the Internet on daily basis and from those 5 hours, 4 hours (80%) are spent non-educational purposes. Average mean hours of the Internet usage among other three faculty undergraduates were 3 hours and from that they have spent about 2 hours (64%) for non-educational purposes. It has shown that the undergraduates' purposes in using the Internet are not educational. This may be due to the free Internet facilities supplied by the universities. Therefore, to reduce the undergraduates' wasting time on the Internet, a credit card system could be introduced. Through the card system, on the university premises, students will only get free access to educational sites and a payment will be added to visit any other sites. Awareness programmes should also be conducted on educational sites and data bases as a method of addressing this issue.

Keywords: *Internet, Social media, Undergraduates, Internet addiction*

A Buddhist perspective on healthiness

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Health and diseases are among the two of the experiences of human life, irrespective of race, religion and social status. Everyone expects and respects good health and everyone value well-being and healthiness as crucial phenomena for a meaningful and successful life, though diseases, aging and so many other problems are inherited with the birth. When we discuss the Buddhist perspective on healthiness, it is a deeper and vital aspect of the teachings of the Buddha. For example, physical healthiness is highly important because without it, spiritual progress is difficult to be thought of, and Buddhism regards healthiness as a vital means to intellectual enlightenment. Refraining from killing, stealing, sexual misconduct, and taking intoxicants are highly important and crucial for physical health. Also, for the mind to be healthy, first of all it is necessary for anyone to develop a correct view and wholesome thoughts and contentment. For social health, how pleasantly and righteously one lives and deals with other social institutions are counted. One can possess spiritual health if he/she is free from mental diseases caused by abundance of greed, hatred and delusion in mind. And mental illnesses of a person are much worse than physical illnesses. So it is understood that healthiness is not merely physical, but something that is deeper than that. Also happiness elaborated in the teachings of the Buddha can never be gained merely with physical healthiness. If somebody wants to be genuinely happy, he/she needs to overcome greed, hatred and delusion and conquer the mind and develop compassion, loving-kindness, wisdom. The scope of this paper covers the Buddhist perspective on healthiness referring to the primary sources of the Buddhist teachings. Further, based on the teachings of the Buddha, this paper elaborates the ways to gain healthiness and the prescribed practices, which should be avoided and followed in order to improve healthiness.

Keywords: *Healthiness, Wrong view, Buddhist teachings*

The role of belief (Bhakthi) vs. confidence (Saddha) in Buddhism

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There are many Buddhists such as Sinhalese, Tamil, Moors, Japanese, Thais, Burmas, English, Russian and Americans in the world. Being a Buddhist is not determined by one's ethnicity or nationality because it is universal. Buddhism is full of offerings and rituals. Hence, Buddhism along with its philosophical principles is recognized as a religion. A Buddhist is the one who understands the reality of life and looks for final enlightenment. According to Kalāma Sutta, the person has the capacity, ability and right to accept something according to his understanding and Buddhism respects the person's thinking ability, freedom of inquiry and personal potentials. If a person is either a Buddhist or is willing to be a Buddhist, he should realize the foundation of being a Buddhist such as Saddhā, confidence. According to Buddhism, when Saddhā is defined, it gives the meanings as accepting the Triple Gem with proper understanding of them. Akāravati Saddhā is defined as the confidence that a Buddhist should have towards the Triple Gem. The Buddha is never a savior but a mere shower of the path leading to emancipation. Buddhism teaches a theory of dependent co-origination for everything that exists in the world and rejects creationism. A Buddhist who understands the dependent co-origination and who rejects creationism has an unshakable confidence in the Triple Gem. Buddhists rely on wisdom targeting Nibbhana as the highest quality. But unfortunately Buddhists in the present society have messed up with what to have either confidence in the triple gem or Bhakti, a belief. Thus, this research studies whether belief or confidence in the Triple Gem is accurate while paying special attention to canonical explanation.

Keywords: *Kalāma Sutta, Nibbāna, Dependent co-origination theory*

Responsibility of the stakeholders for the sustainable tourism sector - post war in the Jaffna district in Sri Lanka

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Over the last two decades, tourism has played an increasingly important role in the economic growth in many countries. It is particularly an attractive option to stimulate development in low-income countries and regions. Jaffna is a main town and the capital of the peninsula as well as of the Northern Province. The Jaffna district was one time considered the heart of the cultural diversity of Sri Lanka. During the civil unrest, most of the aspects of tourism got damaged. However, after the civil unrest, Jaffna is a rapidly growing district of the country in various sectors. The development in Tourism provides dual advantages of generating employment and income while promoting cultural heritage and traditions of the district. Sustainable tourism development is considered an appropriate development concept for many tourist destinations. Sustainable development approach includes the participation of different communities and parties. The success depends on various stakeholders' capacity for innovation and leadership, which are important variables for the creation and implementation of new ideas as part of the development process. For sustainable tourism development to be implemented successfully, there is a need to identify the stakeholders in the implementation process. All stakeholders may not have the same level of interest in sustainable tourism development. Some may be less active and others may not be active at all. Moreover, some stakeholders are more important than others in determining the success of activities. For this reason, this paper mainly identifies the responsibilities of stakeholders for the sustainable tourism sector in the Jaffna district of the Northern part of Sri Lanka. Further, there are two sub objectives. First one is to study the stakeholder theory in relation to the tourism sector. The second one is to examine the type of tourism stakeholders and their characteristics in implementing the concept in the Jaffna District. The data has been analyzed based on the primary data. The primary data collection involved semi-structured method and in-depth interviews were conducted with 200 respondents to collect data. Data was analyzed using content analysis and stakeholder analysis methods. The result reveals that there are 62% of the local and foreign tourists who play a major role in tourism sector in the Jaffna District. There are 38% of the stakeholders who fill the balance parts. The findings indicate that the primary stakeholders have played a major role in shaping the development of sustainable tourism in Jaffna. This assessment process could provide a platform for the application of tourism sector developers in relation to the stakeholder assessment; policy makers and regional planners to improve the overall quality of the tourism sector development in the Jaffna district.

Keywords: *Sustainable tourism development, Regional development, Stakeholders analysis, Economic growth*

Traditional traps for elephants: Solutions to protect the harvest without harming the elephants

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The conflict between humans and elephants has turned into a very complicated national issue at present. Over the last two decades, the conflict has become a very popular topic in the media, and it has been politicised, and politicians have been made the responsible party to solve this matter. While discussions are being held to solve the conflict, the elephants increasingly continue to destroy the harvest. As a solution to this problem, electric security fences have been introduced by the government. Despite the electric fences around villages, elephants continue to destroy the crops. The invasion of the elephants' territories by farmers and collectors of natural resources from the forest is the main reason for the humanelephant conflict. Normally, in the daytime, elephants rest and walk around in search of food and water in the night. They generally raid farmers' crops cultivated near the forest. Farmers respond with gunfire, Hakkapatas (home-made bombs) and poison. When farmers confront elephants in their property, elephants react by attacking them. The aim of this paper is to present the traditional traps which can be used to avoid elephants from farmers' fields. 1. Palmyra fence: Ancient farmers of rural area planted Palmyra trees as a fence around the field. A fence of Palmyra trees provides an effective barrier blocking the elephants from entering the fields. In addition, the tree provides fruit for the elephants. 2. Bamboo fence: Bamboo tree with sharp needles can be planted as a fence to stop elephants from crossing. 3. Goni ugula (bag trap): this trap is used to catch the elephant's leg for a few minutes but it does not harm the animal. . 4. Cheena patas ugula (explosive trap): explosives wrapped in lead foils and placed under rat-trap. When the elephant touches the rat trap, the explosive blasts with a loud noise. 5. Tahadu ugula (Iron plat trap): An iron plate hung on a tree with a trap stick bent under the plate. When elephants walk in the field, the activated trap makes a sound. 6. Minigedi ugula (bell trap): A thread with small bell hung around the field. When elephants cross, the thread bells produce a sound. All the above traps are very simple and low cost and can be applied to any field in the island.

Keywords: *Elephants, Traps, Fields*

Impact of endorser credibility on brand loyalty: With special reference to FMCG brands in Sri Lanka

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Promotion plays an important role in the context of realizing a company's positioning strategy in the field of marketing. With the purpose of enhancing the appeal and desirability of advertisements, endorsing celebrities is a widely used strategy by modern marketers. In order to study this phenomenon in the Sri Lankan context, this research was mainly carried out with the use of an endorser credibility model and its impact on brand loyalty of fast moving consumer goods (FMCG). As per exemplified by the endorser credibility model, three dimensions of endorser credibility were identified. They are *celebrity expertise*, *celebrity trustworthiness* and *celebrity attractiveness*.

Celebrity expertise is defined as the degree to which a communicator is supposed to be a source of valid declarations. *Celebrity trustworthiness* is defined as "the degree of confidence in a communicator" and denotes the honesty and integrity of the spokesperson. *Celebrity attractiveness* postulates that the effectiveness of the message depends on the physical characteristics of the source that makes it attractive. Brand loyalty is constituted via behavioral loyalty.

A sample of 300 respondents were drawn based on the convenience sampling method. SPSS 21.0 version was utilized in deriving both descriptive and inferential statistics. The overall regression model was significant at 95% confidence level. Nevertheless the derived regression model was able to explain 12% variance of the dependent variable (Brand loyalty), concluding that there can be many other factors affecting on brand loyalty. The findings of the study revealed a positive and a moderate impact of endorser credibility on brand loyalty in the selected sector of products. Amongst the different dimensions of endorser credibility, *celebrity expertise* discloses the highest impact on brand loyalty while *celebrity trustworthiness* proved to have the minimum impact.

Based on these findings, the study attempts to propose several important managerial implications. It is recommended that the marketers who are in the field of FMCG industry should pay their attention to the expertise knowledge possessed by the celebrities rather than considering their physical attractiveness. At the same time the study indirectly reveals that the present consumer is more knowledgeable and intelligent and they are more concerned with the knowledge aspect of product consumption. This compels the present marketers and policy makers to be more rationalistic in performing their activities and strategy formulation.

Keywords: *Celebrity endorsement, Endorser credibility, Brand loyalty, Fast moving consumer goods*

Exploration of basic punctuation marks in the ancient writings in Sri Lanka

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Punctuation marks that is of paramount importance in reading ancient Sinhala writings have not been paid much attention to by researchers. The aim of the current study was to explore basic punctuation marks: full stop, caret full stop, caret, comma, exclamation mark and colon, in the ancient Sinhala writings found in epigraphs from the 3 B.C to 17 A.D. Epigraphs found in the 3 B.C carry important evidence of the evolution of Sinhala alphabet and the ancient Sinhala writing system. Thus, the study employed a textual exploration of ten epigraphs found from the 3 B.C to 17 A.D to identify the basic punctuation marks used in that particular time period while focusing on the evolvement of punctuation marks in ancient Sri Lankan Sinhala writings. Accordingly, no evidence of the existence of pauses between words or sentences could be clearly identified in these early writings whereas the placement of punctuations like full stops at the end of sentence pauses appeared since the Anuradhapura middle age. But, the current study observed that there are instances where a long dash has been rarely used in the end of the 1 A.D to mark a pause between two words. Moreover, in the exploration, it became evident that basic punctuation marks – full stop, caret, comma, exclamation mark and colon – have been employed in the ancient writings thus, enabling us to identify the use of punctuation as an important milestone in the evolution of the Sri Lankan writing system. The findings of the study further demonstrated that the punctuation system has evolved with the evolvement of language usage and the writing system in Sri Lanka. It is expected that this study will throw new light to do a comparative study of the contemporary Sri Lankan writings and ancient writings to further explore the existence and evolvement of punctuation marks.

Keywords: *Punctuation marks, Epigraphs, Sri Lankan writing system*

Determinants of the dietary diversity in urban households

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Dietary diversity is an effective indicator for measuring food and nutrition security of households or individuals due to two reasons. First, it captures both macro and micro nutrients which are two traits emphasised in standard definitions of both food and nutrition security. Second, dietary diversity indicators are relatively cost effective and are a straight forward method to measure food security. Economic theories of demand suggest that individuals diversify their diet into higher value micro nutrients rich foods, only when they have satisfied their basic calorie needs. However, literature on the subject suggests that many socio economic factors affect the diversity of the diet of individuals and households. Accordingly, this study attempts to identify the factors affecting dietary diversity by focusing on the urban households in Sri Lanka.

The study used the data collected from hundred households in Nawinna Grama Niladari division in the Colombo district. The households were selected using the simple random sampling method. Although dietary diversity can be calculated in different ways, this study used Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) to capture the diversity of the household diet. Data was obtained using a questionnaire and the factors affecting HDDS were identified using a multiple linear regression model.

The study found that the dietary diversity of urban households is largely influenced by household income, education of the head of the household and the level of food crop grown in a household. Moreover, the consumption of some food groups such as vegetables, green leaves, fruits, meat, fish and milk products is high with higher levels of income and education. Hence, the study suggests that a policy aiming at enhancing food and nutritional security at the household level should focus on increasing household income and education, and giving some incentives for growing food crop at the household level.

Keywords: *Households, Dietary diversity, Food and nutritional security*

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