

**6th International Studies
Students' Research
Symposium
October, 2023**

*“Building Post Pandemic Resilience
Through Research”*



**DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA**



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6th International Studies Students' Research Symposium - 2023

*“Building Post Pandemic Resilience Through
Research”*

ABSTRACTS



6th International Studies Students' Research Symposium
Department of International Studies
Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

October, 2023

Department of International Studies
University of Kelaniya

October, 2023

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**Message from the Vice Chancellor of the
University of Kelaniya**

Senior Professor Nilanthi de Silva

The University of Kelaniya is committed to encouraging research to explore the possibilities and challenges of the future. As a leading university in Sri Lanka, our undergraduates and professors conduct research at the highest level in all fields of study and make significant contributions to their fields of study. Our mission is to transform undergraduates through high quality, research-informed and industry-engaged education.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Department of International Studies for organizing the 6th Annual International Studies Students' Research Symposium is just one of the many such opportunities offered by university, for undergraduates to build the skills needed in the modern world. It is an opportunity not only to improve the life of a student but also to apply regional demands and international standards for a modern graduate.

I appreciate the Department of International Studies for taking the initiative to jointly organize this research Symposium. I express my gratitude to the Head of the Department, the academic staff members and symposium organizers for their exemplary dedication. I extend my best wishes to the researchers and hope that this marks another important milestone in their intellectual development.

Senior Prof. Nilanthi de Silva
Vice Chancellor
University of Kelaniya



**Message from the Dean of the Faculty of
Social Sciences**

Professor M. M. Gunatilake

It is a great pleasure for have to offer this message for the 6th International Studies Students' Research Symposium organized by the Department of International Studies. The Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Kelaniya has always been of great support to undergraduates who are keen to explore the frontiers of research in their fields. The Department of International Studies has consistently provided venues for such undergraduates to share what they have contributed to the existing body of knowledge in their field of study. The efforts of the department to organize the 6th Symposium on International Studies are indeed commendable.

I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of this symposium. Special thank goes to the researchers for presenting their research findings. Furthermore, I would also like to express my appreciation to the Head of the Department, the academic staff, and the International Studies Students' Association. I wish the Department all the best in its future endeavors to spread valuable learning.

Prof. M. M. Gunatilake
Dean
Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Kelaniya



**Message from the Head of the Department
of International Studies**

Professor Chaminda Abeysinghe

It's with great pleasure I extend my best wishes for the 6th International Studies Students' Research Symposium (ISSRS) 2023 and the launch of the Abstract volume of the Symposium.

Since its establishment as a young department in 2017, the Department of International Studies has worked collectively to inculcate an environment that is conducive to research and innovative thinking. Every year, the department organizes a number of events to improve the knowledge attitudes skills of the undergraduates. As an annual event, the department is organizing the research symposium with the ultimate objective of providing the students with a strong platform to disseminate their research findings. Thus, I strongly believe that undergraduates across the country would make the maximum out of this opportunity and this would be a stepping-stone for future academics.

It should be mentioned that organizing an event of this nature is not at all an easy task. It requires great commitment and collective effort. Thus, I would first thank the Vice Chancellor of the University of Kelaniya and the Research Council of the University for their Tremendous Support in organizing this event. Furthermore, I would also like to extend my gratitude to all reviewers of the abstracts, panelists of the sessions, and the editors for their overwhelming support. I would also like to thank the academic staff, as well as the non-academic staff who stood right behind this project from the outset. Last but not least, special thanks go to all undergraduates of the Department of International Studies, without whom this event would have never been a reality.

Prof. Chaminda Abeysinghe
Head
Department of International Studies

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The Major Determinant Factors Driving Youth

Migration in Sri Lanka from 2019 to 2023

Yasaru Wickramasinghe¹

Abstract

This journal article examines the significant determinant factors that have shaped youth migration trends in Sri Lanka between 2019 and 2023. The study aims to shed light on the multifaceted motivations behind youth migration and their implications for individuals and the broader society. Employing a mixed-methods approach, based on secondary data sources such as e-journals, newspaper articles, news, migration reports, e-articles, websites, e-books, e-data base, and other all kinds of e-sources. To analyze collected data, the method of content analysis is used. The analysis reveals a complex interplay of economic, social, and political factors that have contributed to the rise in youth migration. The economic factors include limited employment opportunities, insufficient wages, and a desire for better livelihood prospects, which have driven young Sri Lankans to seek opportunities abroad. Additionally, the study highlights the role of social factors such as family networks and transnational ties that influence migration decisions. Cultural and educational aspirations also play a part in driving youth to explore new horizons. Moreover, the study delves into the policy landscape and its impact on youth migration. It identifies how policy frameworks addressing education, job creation, and social welfare influence the decisions of young individuals to either migrate or remain in the country. The analysis underscores the need for comprehensive policy measures that address the root causes of youth migration, ensuring that the talents and potential of the country's youth population are effectively harnessed for national development. The findings of this study contribute to a deeper understanding of the dynamics driving youth migration in Sri Lanka during the specified period. The nuanced insights presented in this article serve as a foundation for informed policy discussions and strategies aimed at promoting inclusive development, reducing brain drain, and fostering sustainable opportunities for the country's youth. The research underscores the major driving forces of migration and the importance of taking a holistic approach that acknowledges the intertwined nature of economic, social, and policy factors in shaping migration trends and their implications for the future of Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Determinant Factors, Economy, Migration, Youth*

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The Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Sri Lankan Migrant Workers in Qatar

W.M.D.S.K. Priyadarshani¹

Abstract

Sri Lankan migrant workers in Qatar, as well as the Sri Lankan economy as a whole, was significantly impacted financially by the spread of COVID-19. The pandemic-driven economic downturn in the country, as Qatar has been one of the primary destinations among Sri Lankan migrants in recent years. This study aims to investigate the extent of the economic challenges faced by this migrant population during the pandemic, with a focus on job security and remittances, to provide insights for policy recommendations and support measures. This study is based on primary data gathered through semi-structured analysis using a mixed-methods approach. The objectives of the research are to assess the extent of job loss or income reduction experienced by Sri Lankan migrants in Qatar due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to explore the remittance patterns and changes in remittance flows from Sri Lankan migrants in Qatar to their families in Sri Lanka during the pandemic. The significance of the research is that it contributes to the global understanding of how migrant populations were affected by the pandemic, offering insights into the adaptability of migrant communities in different contexts. The sectors that Sri Lankan migrants work in Qatar were severely affected by lockdown and restrictions. However when compared to the early months of the pandemic, the financial stability of Sri Lankans in Qatar improved by 2020 with the easing of restrictions imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19. Due to reduced income or unemployment, they had less to send, effecting the financial stability of their families in Sri Lanka. The main findings of this research are that layoffs and pay cuts and Qatar's overall economic decline due to the pandemic affected a significant percentage of Sri Lankan migrants in the country.

Keywords: *COVID 19, Migration, Pandemic, Qatar*

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Nationalism and Its Impact on Migration Policies: Trump Administration's "Travel Ban" in the United States

T.M.N.L. Bandara¹

Abstract

Significant international migratory movements are a feature of the modern world, fueled by a complex interaction of issues including economic inequality, political unpredictability, and environmental problems. The influence of nationalism on immigration policy has taken on a greater significance. This study aims to look at the relationship between nationalism and immigration laws in various parts of the world. The main goals are as follows, to examine how immigration policies in certain nations are created in connection to nationalist ideas, and determine the effects of nationalist-driven immigration policy on immigrant communities, social integration, and human rights. Significance of this study in a globalized world where populations are becoming more mobile, understanding the impact of nationalism on immigration policy is essential. This paper advances academic discourse by illuminating the philosophical foundations of immigration laws. This is a qualitative data analysis and data was collected from secondary data sources through websites, books, journal articles, and newspapers. Key results of this research include, Immigration policy is heavily influenced by nationalist ideology, which leads to increasingly restrictive and discriminatory tactics, Nationalism-inspired tighter immigration regulations have created serious problems for immigrant populations, including greater vulnerability, restricted access to basic services, and social marginalization, International organizations and agreements play a variety of roles in reducing the influence of nationalism on immigration policy, with varying degrees of effectiveness. The conclusion of this study emphasizes how nationalism significantly influences migration policy, frequently resulting in policies that put national interests ahead of humanitarian considerations. Here are recommendations that specifically address the impact of nationalism on migration policies; Review and repeal discriminatory policies, Engage in diplomacy, Consult with immigration experts, and Legislative Reform.

Keywords: *Human Rights, International Organization, Nationalism, Politics*

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Undergraduates' Migration to Developed Countries for Higher Studies in the Post-Pandemic Era

W.M.C.N. Thilakarathna¹, D.P.S.N. Dias²

Abstract

At the stage of the COVID-19 pandemic, a surge in international undergraduate student migration to developed countries has emerged as a global phenomenon. This study examines the multifaceted aspects of this migration trend, with a primary focus on the experiences and implications for individuals, host countries, and the countries of origin. The research objectives encompass a comprehensive analysis of the motivations and challenges faced by undergraduate students from developing countries in pursuit of higher education opportunities in developed nations, as well as a systematic assessment of the potential socioeconomic impacts on both the sending and receiving countries. Using mixed-methods, this study combines primary data from questionnaire surveys with secondary data from academic publications, governmental reports, and scholarly sources. The data have been meticulously curated to provide an insightful examination of the phenomenon. Preliminary findings underscore that the pandemic has fundamentally reshaped the landscape of international higher education. Factors such as safety concerns, the advent of hybrid learning models, and evolving visa policies have emerged as pivotal influencers shaping migration decisions. Furthermore, the research emphasizes the significance of international education as a potent catalyst for cross-cultural exchange and economic development. Yet, it simultaneously highlights the pressing need for enhanced support structures to effectively address the unique challenges faced by migrating students. In conclusion, this research emphasizes the vital importance of understanding and adapting to evolving international undergraduate migration dynamics in the post-pandemic era. Collaborative efforts among governments, educational institutions, and international organizations are essential to ensure the well-being of migrating undergraduates and to leverage the potential economic and cultural benefits of cross-border education.

Keywords: *Higher Education, International Cooperation, Migration, Post-Pandemic Era, Undergraduates*

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The Brain Drain Catastrophe: The Migration of Junior Academic Staff in Government Universities amidst the Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka

Isini Jayarathna¹, Onnela Moore², Vishmi Pussala Hewage³

Abstract

The development of any state or an institution is influenced by its human capital and competent workforce. However, the current economic crisis in Sri Lanka has been a predicament for most of the citizens and has caused drainage of skilled labor in academia. In this context, there is a tendency among young scholars who recently graduated from government universities in Sri Lanka to migrate to foreign countries aiming for permanent residence and privileged professions. This has created a loophole in academia by creating a scarcity of qualified junior academic staff. Hence, the objective of this study was to analyze the reasons, the consequences of the excessive migration of young scholars in academia and the recommendations to uplift favorable conditions in the Sri Lankan context. Hence, random samples of 30 participants who graduated after 2020 and have experience of being a junior academic staff member in a government university were selected to collect primary data. Thus, a questionnaire comprising 6 close-ended questions and 6 open-ended questions was administered and 5 interviews were conducted while the collected data was analyzed using graphs and thematic analysis. According to the findings, low standard of living, new taxation system which affected the salaries of the academics, lack of opportunities for professional growth, job insecurity, lack of facilities for their post-graduate studies and lack of incentives were presented as reasons for migration. According to the perceptions of the participants, the consequences of brain drain were unveiled as loss of human capital, and its impact on the quality of tertiary-level education in Sri Lanka. In conclusion, the development of new opportunities in the academic arena including permanent vacancies, imposing a fair taxation system and improving privileges for the junior academic staff were regarded as recommendations by the participants.

Keywords: *Brain Drain, Economic Crisis, Government Universities, International Migration, Junior Academic Staff*

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Illegal Labor Migration in the Post-Pandemic Period in Sri Lanka: With Special Reference to Gampaha District

L.V.N Bandara¹

Abstract

Sri Lanka is one of the major countries that earn income through labor migration. Covid-19 has had a significant impact on labor migration, causing various problems in the country during this period. Such as imposing travel restrictions, difficulty in getting visas and travel documents, economic issues and cuts to government subsidies. Consequently, there is an increase in the number of people using illegal methods to migrate. This research focuses on investigating why people use illegal methods for labor migration. According to the International Labor Organization, Sri Lankan illegal migration increased by 20% after the Covid-19 pandemic period. The objectives of this research are to find solutions to reduce this problem and to provide knowledge about legal migration methods to the people. According to the report by the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment, Gampaha is the District with the most illegal labor migration in the post-pandemic period. This research is based on primary data, such as interviews with officers of the Gampaha District Labor Office, as well as secondary data, such as reports from government officers, e-news, and articles. The key findings of this research are, the main reasons of the illegal migration are less knowledge of pre-departure process, illegal influence of misleading agencies to people and domestic violence. Conducting seminars about legal migration at the regional level and providing education about the pre-departure process to the people are some solutions for reducing illegal labor migration.

Keywords: *Covid-19, Gampaha District, Illegal Labor Migration*

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Analyzing the Role of Sri Lankan Defense Forces in Response to COVID-19

Y.M.K. Yapa Baddawela¹, R.M.S.M. Upananda², R.D.D.T.

Dissanayake³

Abstract

The outbreak of COVID-19 in Sri Lanka posed many challenges to Sri Lankan healthcare and administrative infrastructure. The defense forces visibly played a vital role in managing the outburst of the pandemic while keeping the outcome within manageable limits. While the country had a hard time with mitigating the spread, the role of the Sri Lankan defense forces emerged as pivotal in addressing the pandemic's multi-faceted impact. The study aims to assess the involvement and effectiveness of the Sri Lankan defense forces in managing the COVID-19 pandemic. It highlights the collaborative approach of Sri Lanka in managing a global health crisis, emphasizing the importance of defense forces in supplementing national responses beyond their traditional roles. The study employed a qualitative approach, using Secondary data from existing research papers, official documents, reports, and media briefings. The data gathered through the research are analyzed in order to identify the effectiveness of the role played by the defense forces. Defense forces played a pivotal role in logistical support, quarantine facilities establishment, and contact tracing. Also, public trust in the defense forces was instrumental in ensuring compliance with health guidelines. It can be seen that the Sri Lankan defense forces played a significant role in effectively responding to COVID-19. Their involvement showcased a collective approach to crisis management, demonstrating the adaptability of defense institutions. To further enhance readiness for future health crises, formal training modules can be introduced in the defense curriculum focusing on pandemic response.

Keywords: *COVID-19, Defense Forces, Pandemic Response, Sri Lanka, National Response*

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Sri Lanka's National Security and Counterintelligence Operations

W.I.P. Fernando¹

Abstract

Intelligence is a key component pertaining to National Security. Even though intelligence is currently employed in International Relations, it does not imply using the state's power to prevent the foreign espionage efforts. The primary aspect that could be used in this situation to obtain the initiative and stop these foreign espionage attempts is counterintelligence. Counterintelligence refers to efforts taken to protect one's own intelligence operations from penetration and disruption by hostile nations or their intelligence services. As this study focuses on Sri Lanka's National Security and counterintelligence, operations it emerges how Sri Lanka employs its intelligence agencies to uphold the National Security standards and the contribution of counterintelligence operations to National Security. In Sri Lanka, intelligence operations are a joint effort of Sri Lankan Tri Forces and Police. The State Intelligence Service (SIS) in the Police, the Military Intelligence Corps (MIC) in the Sri Lanka Army, the Department of Naval Intelligence (DNI) in the Sri Lanka Navy, and the Directorate of Air Intelligence (DAI) in the Sri Lanka Air Force are engaged in intelligence as well as counterintelligence in Sri Lanka. The main objective of this research is to identify the intelligence operations, which implies a special focus on counterintelligence operations in Sri Lanka and how it affects to the National Security. The research utilizes a variety of primary and secondary sources including journal articles, news articles, books and as well as the existing researches. This research will fill some gaps in National Security regarding intelligence and aims to provide few information about counterintelligence operations.

Keywords: *Counterintelligence, Intelligence, National Security, Sri Lanka, State Intelligence Service (SIS), Tri Forces & Police*

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Post-Pandemic Activism: A Marxist View of Sri

Lanka's 2022 Protest

Suhanya Devanjee¹, Charith Herath²

Abstract

The awareness of systematic inequalities and injustices exposed during the post-pandemic era formulated the background for the resurgence of social movements. This study exemplifies the case study of the Sri Lankan People's Protest, which originated due to economic disparities and the government's shortcomings in handling a crisis. While understanding the complexities, a question arises as to whether this could be considered a revival of Marxist theories due to the depth of class struggle and inequality. The underlying causes and implications of the political mobilization provide unique context and doubt to its grounds. The main objective of this study would be to understand the social and political factors that contributed to the Sri Lankan People's Protest within the framework of Marxist theory. Additionally, this study looks forward to assessing the protest implications for Sri Lanka's landscape and providing insights into the broader global phenomenon of post-pandemic movements. The study would be based on qualitative data gathered through interviews, media reports, and surveys and would be analyzed using content analysis methods. The findings of this study showcased the underlying social and economic factors that contributed to the political grievance and showed that the class struggle and inequality in society vastly shaped it. The rise of class struggles, and societal inequality could be understood as an intersection of contemporary Marxist activism. Comparative insights of the post-pandemic mobilization also indicate global trends in post-pandemic political movements. However, conducting an in-depth analysis of a complex social movement within a limited timeframe, the hardship of transferring context-specific data to other countries, and balancing qualitative and quantitative aspects of the research impose limitations on the research. Yet, this research opens the gates to viewing the protest from a unique perspective and aids policymaking and public awareness.

Keywords: *Marxist Theories, Post-pandemic Movements, Sri Lankan People's Protest*

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Effectiveness of Conflict Transformation Theory in Reconciliation in Sri Lanka: Young Visionary Initiative 2023

G.W.S. Induwara Diulpath¹

Abstract

The Civil War between the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam ended in 2009, resulting in many wounds within Sri Lankan societies. But the reconciliation still seems elusive even 14 years after the Civil War. Sri Lanka continues to endure new damages because the nation is attempting to heal from the recent Easter Sunday attack and people's struggle; this revealed many border sociopolitical issues where the ethnic divisions have relied upon the core. This research suggests the necessity of reconciliation in Sri Lanka to sustain peace therein. The reason is that Sri Lanka remains within the shades of ethnic violence. Therefore, this research aims to explore a practical theory as a tool to enhance the reconciliation process in Sri Lanka. This research aims to investigate the effectiveness of conflict transformation theory to build reconciliation in post-pandemic Sri Lanka. This research uses a mixed method approach to measure the effectiveness of Conflict transformation theory with descriptive statistics, questionnaires, and context analysis in the data analysis. The 'Young Visionary Initiative 2023' (YV2023) is a peace-building and reconciliation project launched by the Center for Peace Building and Reconciliation (CPBR) – I use this project as the ground to test the effectiveness of conflict transformation theory. YV2023 initiative provides diverse youths with knowledge of non-violent conflict transformation and practitioner space, launched on the conflict transformation theory implemented by John Paul Lederach (1990;1997). Secondary and primary data were respectively collected by the YV2023 project reports and their participants' experiences. Finally, the expected result of this research recommends the Conflict Transformation Theory (CTT) as an effective tool for the reconciliation process in the post-pandemic era. Also, this research suggests that the Sri Lankan government and NGOs utilize CTT as an effective tool in their reconciliation initiatives to build peace in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Conflict Transformation, Peace-building, Post-pandemic Reconciliation*

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The Middle Powers' Perspectives on Regional Security and the Rise of Minilateralism in the Indian-Pacific Region

Lughadarini Yogaraja¹

Abstract

There have been significant changes to the world order, and the end of the cold war brought a unipolar era. However, the new millennium and the rise of multipolarity have made cooperation much more difficult. The Growing acceptance of "minilateralism," an idea in international relations that includes small groupings of nations cooperating to solve problems or achieve common objectives has emerged in the Indo-pacific region among countries such as Australia, India, Japan, and South Korea. Minilateralism breathes new life into the current state of global cooperation. It has the potential to improve interstate relations and produce creative solutions because of how plain and relatively simple it is. The majorities of the minilateral groupings, however, are still in their infancy and will face numerous obstacles before they can be deemed successful. The recent geopolitical turbulence in the Indo-Pacific region has been evident during the past years, with the creation of new nomenclature, new strategic alignments, and the emergence of minilateral groups like the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) & the trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States (AUKUS). These forums are a result of the shifting geopolitical dynamics in the area, and they will therefore have strategic ramifications for the area. The Indo-Pacific's growing Middle Power presence necessitates a change in how the region's nations approach the Great Power Competition and territorial conflicts. Middle Powers stand out for their dedication to multilateralism and diplomacy, with minilateralism emerging as a more common strategy. Major Powers are now more willing to cooperate when dealing with international issues and talks when like-minded middle power states demonstrate presence in the region and are supported by smaller states. In this research, both qualitative and quantitative data will be used to analyze the research to analyze the role of the middle powers and the ramification it has on regional security for Sri Lanka's foreign policy.

Keywords: *Indo-pacific, Minilateralism, Middle Powers, Security, Diplomacy*

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Complex Interdependence in the Post-Pandemic Era:

A Case Study of QUAD

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Abstract

The coronavirus underscores global interconnectedness, with its impact and efforts to combat it highlighting interdependency and the need for international cooperation. Given the context, the post-pandemic era is an ideal setting to assess the relevance of complex interdependence theory put forward by Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye in their 1977 book “Power and Interdependence: World Politics in Transition.” The theory describes a world where states and actors exhibit interdependence through diverse channels, underscoring various facets of interconnectedness beyond mere military might. Complex Interdependence in international politics is characterized by three key features: Multiple channels linking nations, absence of a distinct issue hierarchy, and reduced military emphasis with economic and ecological focus. This paper aims to test the applicability of the afore-mentioned principles of the complex interdependence in the post-pandemic era with regards to QUAD: The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue comprising four Indo-Pacific nations: The United States, Japan, India, and Australia. The significance of this study lies in its assessment of the relevance of a 1970s theory in today's world. This study is a qualitative case study that relies on secondary sources, including scholarly journal articles, QUAD summit reports and joint statements. The QUAD, exemplifying the principle of multiple channels through its diverse interaction channels, has expanded its agenda to encompass non-military issues such as health, technology, infrastructure, and climate change in the post-pandemic era. The pandemic and immediate measures taken by the QUAD show that security threats are not always military and that military security does not always dominate the agenda in this complex interdependent world. In the post-pandemic era, the QUAD emphasizes economic recovery through member cooperation while addressing China's assertiveness with ministerial-level working groups. This study, drawing from diverse secondary sources, highlights the enduring relevance of the 1977 principles of complex interdependence in explaining contemporary global dynamics.

Keywords: *Complex Interdependence, Covid-19, International Cooperation, Post-pandemic Era, QUAD*

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Political Conflict between India and China in 2022

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Abstract

China and India have a shared history characterized by complex diplomatic ties, territorial disputes, and intermittent wars. In recent years, tensions escalated over border demarcations and strategic interests, leading to a renewed focus on their interactions on both regional and global stages. This research aims to examine the underlying political forces that stoked the war between China and India in 2022. In 2022, the India-China political conflict attracted scholarly attention due to its geopolitical, economic, and regional implications. Researchers also explored the influence of major global powers, emphasizing its significance. The stability of the Asian region is impacted by relations between China and India, two major players. Both countries' economies are expanding quickly and entangled in international supply chains. The intensification of the conflict might stymie business operations in the area and elsewhere, which would have an impact on trade, investment, and the world economy. This research conducted quantitative and qualitative data using primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include official statements, speeches, and policy documents from Indian and Chinese leaders, offering insights into their perspectives and justifications. There are several viable answers to this political conflict. Diplomatic engagement, multilateral negotiations, and confidence-inspiring measures might facilitate de-escalation. Intensified communication between the leaders of China and India could foster understanding and close perception gaps. International organizations can also aid in finding peaceful solutions by offering venues for arbitration and mediation. The political conflict between India and China in 2022 underscores the intricate nature of international relations. Understanding the nature of their conflicts is crucial for promoting regional stability and collaboration because both countries continue to play important roles on the international scene.

Keywords: *China, India, Leaders, Political Conflict*

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China and Sri Lanka Relations in the Context of Vaccine Diplomacy

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Abstract

In an increasingly interconnected world, diplomacy has taken on new dimensions and strategies. One of the most prominent and urgent aspects of contemporary diplomacy is vaccine diplomacy, a practice that has gained global attention amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccine diplomacy involves the use of vaccines as a tool for fostering international relations, building influence, and advancing geopolitical agendas. China, as a major global player, has been at the forefront of vaccine diplomacy, and its relations with countries like Sri Lanka have come under the spotlight. This comprehensive analysis aims to examine the intricate dynamics of China and Sri Lanka's relations within the context of vaccine diplomacy and aims to shed light on the implications for global health, regional politics, and bilateral ties. While there is adequate literature on China's vaccine diplomacy, there is no consensus on how it affects the relations between China and Sri Lanka. To accomplish those objectives, qualitative secondary data sources such as books, journal articles, government reports, official statements, and press releases from both Chinese and Sri Lankan sources are analyzed. According to the findings of the study, it can be mentioned that Vaccine diplomacy has served as a diplomatic tool to enhance bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and China. It has deepened their strategic partnership in the health sector and reinforced Sri Lanka's dependence on China. Beyond the immediate health benefits, Sri Lanka's engagement with China in vaccine diplomacy is intertwined with broader economic and strategic considerations, including infrastructure development and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Overall, the dynamic relationship between Sri Lanka and China within the realm of vaccine diplomacy has emerged as a multifaceted and evolving strategic partnership.

Keywords: *China, Regional Politics, Sri Lanka, Vaccine Diplomacy*

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Dynamics of Post-Pandemic Regionalism in Southeast

Asia

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Abstract

The Covid-19 pandemic has made the entire world rethink the future of regional cooperation. The closure of national borders, competition to secure vaccines as well as competition for post-pandemic economic recovery have become major hurdles in promoting greater regional cooperation. Today, globalization has been challenged, and nationalism and populism are gaining a greater say in international relations. In the case of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) it is now at crossroads. Being the most successful regional organization in the developing world, it is now regaining its momentum and striving its way back to becoming a major economic powerhouse. Against this backdrop, the main objective of this study is to analyze the role of regional cooperation in the post-pandemic recovery in Southeast Asia. It looks at regionalism in Southeast Asia from a constructivist perspective and attempts to understand the role of perspectives, experience, and mutual understanding in promoting regional cooperation. As far as the methodology of the study is concerned, this is qualitative research based on secondary data. The main sources of data collection include journal articles, annual reports, and websites. Looking the theoretical background of the study, it is based on constructivism, a more contemporary theory used to explain regional cooperation. Research findings suggest that post-pandemic recovery in Southeast Asia should be based on a more constructivist approach i.e. one based on shared experience and mutual cooperation. The study also calls for the importance of individuals in promoting regional cooperation.

Keywords: *ASEAN, Constructivism, Covid-19, Regionalism*

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Strengthening International Collaboration for Health and Humanitarian Support in Managing Situation in Sri Lanka after Covid-19 Pandemic

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Abstract

This abstract explores the critical necessity of enhancing international collaboration to provide comprehensive health and humanitarian support in the post-COVID-19 landscape of Sri Lanka. This study has a qualitative analysis framework, drawn from interviews, reports, and scholarly literature, to assess the multifaceted challenges and opportunities facing Sri Lanka as it emerges from the pandemic. Our analysis unveils the intricate web of challenges confronting Sri Lanka, encompassing both health and humanitarian dimensions. This includes the strain on the healthcare system, aggravated socio-economic disparities, and heightened vulnerability among marginalized communities. Through an in-depth qualitative data analysis, several pivotal findings emerge. Foremost, the imperative for international cooperation including the provision of critical medical resources, technological support, and knowledge transfer to strengthen Sri Lanka's healthcare infrastructure. Furthermore, the focus on collaborative efforts to bridge socio-economic disparities, ensuring that healthcare, education, and economic prospects are accessible to all. Additionally, the analysis underscores the vital role of coordinated humanitarian assistance, in addressing the needs of internally displaced populations after the issue. Effective collaboration between international agencies and local organizations is emphasized as the cornerstone of delivering timely and targeted aid. This qualitative analysis illuminates the pivotal role of international collaboration in mitigating the post-COVID-19 challenges in Sri Lanka in different sectors. The findings of our research shows that by leveraging the collective strengths of the international community, Sri Lanka can navigate the post-pandemic era with resilience, inclusivity, and a renewed sense of hope.

Keywords: *Health, Humanitarian, Collaboration, Post-Covid 19, Global Effort*

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Liberalism and Economic Interdependence: Assessing China-Sri Lanka Economic Relations in the Post- COVID-19 Era

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K.K.P.A. Kankanamge³

Abstract

This research investigates the nature of bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and China in the post pandemic era. The problem stems from the need to understand how economic interdependence, guided by liberal economic principles, impacts Sri Lanka's sovereignty, economic stability, and development, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic. The study aims to shed light on whether increased economic ties with China bring about mutual benefits or potentially lead to imbalances and dependency. Through a qualitative research approach, including literature analysis and stakeholder interviews, the objectives include examining the role of liberal economic ideologies, evaluating the level of economic interdependence, identifying challenges and opportunities, and assessing the implications on Sri Lanka's economic landscape. The research findings underscore the importance of a balanced approach, strategic planning, and comprehensive policies to ensure that economic collaboration with China aligns with Sri Lanka's long-term economic stability and growth objectives, allowing for mutual prosperity in the post-pandemic period.

Keywords: *Liberalism, China, Sri Lanka, Economy, Covid-19*

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Environmental Diplomacy: Analyzing China's Commitments and Actions on Climate Change Post COVID – 19

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Abstract

Global attention has increasingly turned towards environmental issues in the post Covid-19 era. This research delves into China's environmental diplomacy, specifically examining the nation's commitments and actions regarding climate change in the post-COVID-19 era. The pandemic has prompted a re-evaluation of environmental policies globally, creating both challenges and opportunities for nations to redefine their commitments to a sustainable future. This study seeks to dissect China's evolving stance on climate change, exploring how the pandemic has influenced its environmental diplomacy. The research will conduct analysis of China's post-COVID-19 climate policies, considering both domestic initiatives and international engagements. Special attention will be given to changes in regulatory frameworks, investments in renewable energy, and the integration of sustainable practices into China's economic recovery plans. The study aims to discern the trajectory of China's environmental commitments in the aftermath of the pandemic. Secondary data will be used in the compilation of this study, where journal articles, scholarly articles, web articles, videos are expected to be used primarily. The research findings reveal nuanced shifts in China's post-COVID-19 environmental diplomacy. Noteworthy adaptations include an increased focus on renewable energy investments and the integration of sustainable practices into economic recovery plans. China actively participates in global climate agreements, showcasing cooperative leadership, and leverages its economic and technological capabilities for positive environmental outcomes.

Keywords: *Environmental Diplomacy, Post-COVID-19 Era, Sustainable Future*

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BRI & Geo-economics of the 21st Century: A Case Study of Sino Sri Lanka Relations

Bathila Methmal¹

Abstract

This research paper explores the geo-economics of the 21st century, focusing on the bilateral relationship between China and Sri Lanka within the context of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The study investigates the major challenges faced by Sri Lanka during the post-civil conflict era and examines the nature of financial and development assistance provided by China. It also assesses whether Sri Lanka has effectively utilized Chinese financial assistance for its development. The research aims to identify the impact of Chinese investments on Sri Lanka's actual development, understand the key challenges hindering Sri Lanka's development progress, and explore the nature of financial and development assistance from China. Adopting a qualitative research approach, this study relies on secondary data to collect reliable information. Qualitative content analysis is utilized as the data analysis technique to analyze the collected data. The findings of this research reveal that Chinese investments alone are not the sole cause of Sri Lanka's current debt burden. Rather, the mismanagement of many Chinese investments by the Sri Lankan government has contributed to this situation. These findings highlight the complex dynamics of the Sino-Sri Lanka relationship and emphasize the importance of effective governance and management in maximizing the benefits of foreign investments for sustainable development. The research contributes to the existing knowledge on the BRI and its implications for developing countries, providing insights specific to the case of Sri Lanka. Policymakers and practitioners can use these findings to understand the challenges and risks associated with such partnerships and to inform future strategies for maximizing the positive impacts of Chinese investments while mitigating potential risks. Ultimately, the research aims to support evidence-based decision making and sustainable development in Sri Lanka and other countries engaged in the BRI.

Keywords: *BRI, Chinese Investments, Development, Sri Lanka*

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The Transformation of International Law in the Aftermath of Covid-19

Achini I. Dissanayake¹

Abstract

This research investigates the profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the landscape of international law. The global crisis has not only tested the resilience of existing legal frameworks but has also catalyzed significant shifts and adaptations in international law to address the unique challenges posed by the pandemic. The research examines key areas where international law has evolved in response to Covid-19, including public health, human rights, trade, and state sovereignty. It analyzes the role of international organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations, in shaping new norms and guidelines for pandemic response. One of the central themes explored is the tension between public health imperatives and individual liberties. The legal and ethical considerations surrounding quarantine measures, travel restrictions, and contact tracing, highlighting the delicate balance required to protect public health while upholding fundamental rights. Additionally, the pandemic's impact on global trade and economic law. It evaluates the legal implications of export restrictions, trade disruptions, and efforts to ensure the equitable distribution of medical supplies and vaccines. The role of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and regional trade agreements in responding to these challenges is also examined. This research conducted quantitative and qualitative data using primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include official statements, speeches and policy documents. This research considers the role of international legal mechanisms in promoting global vaccine distribution and ensuring fair and efficient vaccine deployment. This research underscores the dynamic nature of international law in responding to the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It highlights the need for continued cooperation among states, international organizations, and legal scholars to adapt and strengthen the international legal framework to better address current and future global health crises.

Keywords: *Covid-19, Global Crisis, International Law, International Organizations*

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An Investigative Study on Human Rights Revealed by Buddhist Teachings

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Abstract

This investigative study explores the symbiotic relationship between Buddhism and human rights, illuminating the profound ethical and philosophical underpinnings of Buddhism that resonate with modern human rights principles. Rooted in ancient wisdom, Buddhism provides a unique lens through which to view and appreciate human rights, transcending cultural and geographical boundaries. The study begins by dissecting key Buddhist teachings, such as the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path, to reveal their inherent promotion of compassion, empathy, and non-violence. These principles, deeply embedded in Buddhism, closely align with core elements of human rights, including the right to life, freedom from violence, and the pursuit of happiness. Historical and contemporary case studies further demonstrate Buddhism's advocacy for human rights. Examples include the Dalai Lama's tireless efforts to secure the Tibetan people's right to self-determination and the engagement of Buddhist monks and organizations in global human rights causes. Nonetheless, the study acknowledges that challenges can arise when reconciling Buddhist teachings with human rights standards, such as issues related to religious freedom and gender equality. It highlights instances where Buddhist institutions have been criticized for perpetuating discrimination or inequality, stimulating dialogue on ways to address these tensions constructively. In conclusion, this study offers an advanced perspective on the intricate connection between Buddhism and human rights. . The research employs qualitative data gathered through sources like interviews, group discussions, and academic papers, and will undergo analysis utilizing content analysis techniques for Buddhism to contribute positively to the discourse on universal human rights. In a world marked by increasing interconnectedness, this investigation encourages a more inclusive and compassionate approach to human rights advocacy, fostering greater understanding and harmony.

Keywords: *Buddhism, Eight Noble Path, Human Rights, Happiness Interconnectedness*

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A Study of Buddhist Principles Revealed in the Saleyyaka Sutta about the Protection of Human Rights Special Reference to Sri Lanka

Ratan Alo Chakma¹

Abstract

Human rights are inherent to all human beings and every person, regardless of race, gender, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. Despite Sri Lanka's identity as a predominantly Buddhist country, significant human rights violations occur on the island. Therefore, the prime objective of this research is to analyze human rights violations in Sri Lanka. This study identifies severe human rights violations such as killing, torture, ethnic violence, and freedom of expression. This study examines the mechanisms in place to protect human rights in Sri Lanka. It explores the application of the Buddhist scripture Saleyyaka Sutta and related Buddhist teachings as a means of protecting and promoting human rights. Qualitative secondary data including scholarly articles, local news reports, research papers, and books authored by local and international individuals have been collected and analyzed. Relevant case studies are presented with visual aids such as photographs, and illustrative examples of human rights, compelling arguments, and legal frameworks are examined which are collected from local newspapers and online news platforms. This data provides valuable insight into the nature and extent of human rights violations in the country. The findings of this study shed light on the importance of individual behaviors such as physical conduct, verbal conduct, and mental conduct as the primary factors contributing to human rights violations in Sri Lanka. Using principles derived from the Saleyyaka Sutta, this research advocates a framework that emphasizes human rights protection and accountability. This research contributes to a broader understanding of the human rights landscape in Sri Lanka and particularly highlights the potential role of Buddhist teachings in protecting human rights. By investigating the analysis through the examination of specific case studies, this study provides valuable insights to policymakers, advocates, and stakeholders in the pursuit of improved human rights practices in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Buddhism, Buddhists, Human Rights, Individual Conduct, Saleyyaka Sutta*

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Ever – increasing Gang Violence in the World’s Largest Refugee Camp: Rohingya

H. M. D. S. Herath¹

Abstract

In Myanmar’s Rakhine State, the Rohingya minority fled to neighboring Bangladesh seeking asylum in the face of persecution by armed forces and Buddhist fundamentalists. With that, August 2017 saw the worst exodus of Rohingyas. Today, many of them live in the World’s largest Refugee Camp, Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. Rohingyas are already dealing with numerous crises. Increasing gang violence has further intensified their fears. This study expects to understand the root causes of the ever – increasing gang violence in the World’s largest Refugee Camp and its social impact. By July 2023 alone, 45 refugees have lost their lives due to gang violence and the camp has become a heaven for crimes such as murder, kidnapping, robbery, extortion, and sexual bribery. Therefore, the significance of emphasizing on this case has increased. This study is based on a qualitative research methodology that uses secondary data sources which was collected from academic journals, reports, publications, and websites. The key findings of the study are that lack of education, loss of livelihood, poverty and limited mobility are the main factors leading to the ever – increasing gang violence. With Ukraine crisis, the lack of attention and reduction of foreign aid to the Rohingyas has also been a major factor. Around one million Rohingyas, and Bangladesh which sympathetically accepted them six years ago, are currently suffering from the social impact of gang violence. In conclusion, getting rid of asylum brings solutions to many problems. For that, it is possible to create a strong protection mechanism in the camp and demand a strong commitment from the international community to protect their rights.

Keywords: *Asylum, Gang Violence, Refugee, Rohingyas*

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Impact of Social Challenges on Women's Human Right Violations in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

This research examines the impact of social challenges on women's human right violations in Sri Lanka. The study explores how societal factors contribute to the violations of women's human right. Sri Lanka's women face various forms of human right violations. Including; gender inequality, domestic violence, gender pay gap, violation against women and limited access to education. Study area of this research mainly focus on gender pay gap, violation against women and limited access to education. In here objectives are, to analyze societal factors impacts and women's human right violations in Sri Lanka. To examine the consequences of these violations and to suggest policy recommendations to address and mitigate these challenges. This research provide a comprehensive understanding of the issue. The findings will inform policymakers, NGOs and activist working towards women's empowerment. This study utilize mixed method approach and collecting primary and secondary data. In here key findings are societal norms and traditional gender roles play a significant role perpetuating women's right violations. Economic disparities and limited access to recourses contribute to women's vulnerability. Here are some potential solutions and strategies to mitigate women's rights violations in Sri Lanka. To suggest policy recommendations to address and mitigate these challenges and Increase awareness of women's rights in the civil society. This research underscores the urgent need for comprehensive policy investigations addressing the social challenges that contribute to women's human right violations in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Human Right, Social Challenges, Gender Inequality, Women's Right Violations*

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Exploitation of Women Workers in the Apparel

Industry in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

This study explores the issues of low wages, long working hours, and unsafe working conditions faced by many women workers in the Apparel Industry in Sri Lanka. This is objected to identify key factors that contribute to the exploitation of women workers in apparel industry, and develop recommendations for improving the working conditions and rights of women workers in the relevant industry. This study is significant because it will provide necessary findings to sort out issues regarding exploitation of women in the Apparel industry. There is a primary data analysis which is sampled by a selected group of people, and this is also based on secondary data sources. The mixed method is followed as the methodology of this research. As a major finding of this study, it is apparent that the women workers are vulnerable to sexual harassment and abuse in the apparel industry, due to long working hours, and unsafe working conditions. The exploitation of women workers in this industry has a negative impact on their health, and well-being. In conclusion, this study summarizes the key findings and recommendations for improving the working conditions and rights of women workers in the Apparel industry in Sri Lanka, as one of the major parts under the entire sphere of the human rights.

Keywords: *Apparel Industry, Gender Equality, Human Rights, Sri Lanka, Women Exploitation*

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Break the Bias; Women's Political Participation to Achieve Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow (A Study under Women Parliamentarians' Caucus in Parliament of Sri Lanka)

R.M.H.P.M. Hathiya¹

Abstract

Women's political participation is a political concept that occupies a unique place in the practical political curriculum. Women naturally engage in political participation as it integrates with their lifestyle and is one aspect of their life journey. But depending on each other's opinions and attitudes, their levels of participation in politics may vary. This research based on 'How has Sri Lanka achieved Women's Political Participation while achieving Gender Equality? This was done on behalf of the Women's Caucus of the Parliament of Sri Lanka. The purpose of this is to show that it is possible to achieve gender equality today and move towards a sustainable tomorrow through women's political participation. For this study, a sample of the 12 female MPs representing the women's caucus of the Parliament of Sri Lanka was selected, and information was obtained through the dual methods of primary and secondary data, i.e., questionnaires, books, reports, and the internet. According to the data analysis using Excel tables and graphs, the final conclusion was that there is no gender equality in Sri Lanka, and women's political participation is essential to achieve it. Through that, we can move towards a sustainable tomorrow. There are many proposals, such as empowering women at the local level to create gender equality through increasing women's political participation, asking women's opinions in decision-making, providing theoretical and practical knowledge, improving the representation system, and giving a percentage value to women on the national list and the list of political parties. Through this women's political participation, gender equality can be established and steps can be taken today for a sustainable tomorrow.

Keywords: *Gender Equality, Sustainable Development, Women Parliamentarians' Caucus, Women's Political Participation*

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Human Rights and LGBTQ Community in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms that every human being is born with. Human rights are universal and apply to all people regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. But unfortunately, LGBTQ+ people often face human rights violations and discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender. This includes the criminalization of same-sex relationships or transgender identities, as well as legal discrimination such as social stigma, exclusion and violence. The situation of the LGBTQ community is very pathetic, especially in countries with traditional attitudes and culture like Sri Lanka. Homosexuality is still considered a crime in Sri Lanka. The purpose of this study is to study the challenges that led to the violation of the basic rights of the LGBTQ community in Sri Lanka and to investigate the legal protections taken in Sri Lanka to protect their rights. It also examines the role of non-governmental organizations in protecting the human rights of the LGBTQ community. For this qualitative research based on primary and secondary data, primary data is collected through interviews and journal articles, research reports, magazines, electronic media are used as main sources for secondary data collection. This data can provide a better understanding of the situation of human rights and the LGBTQ community in Sri Lanka. It highlights the challenges faced by Sri Lankan LGBTQ people in terms of discrimination, legal barriers and social stigma. By examining the efforts of non-governmental organizations to promote and protect the human rights of the LGBTQ community, including legal reform, advocacy and awareness initiatives, this research provides great insights for advocates, policy makers and all those interested in human rights.

Keywords: *Discrimination, Human Rights, LGBTQ, Social Stigma, Sri Lanka*

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Human Rights Implications of Abortion in Sri Lanka and the Legalization Debate

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Abstract

Against the backdrop of Sri Lanka's restrictive abortion laws, this study scrutinizes the intricate interplay between women's rights, health outcomes, and legal considerations during the post pandemic era Sri Lanka's current abortion laws, which generally criminalize the procedure except when a woman's life is at risk, have stirred substantial debate on their compatibility with international human rights standards. This seeks to analyze the human rights implications of Sri Lanka's restrictive abortion laws on women's health and autonomy and examine the societal, cultural, and religious factors influencing the abortion legalization debate, assess the potential disparities in access to safe abortion services across different segments of society. This sheds light on the potential violations of women's human rights resulting from restrictive abortion laws. This research is done on the based on both qualitative and quantitative data and reports, journals, articles, government data bases are used as secondary data. The study reveals that restrictive abortion laws in Sri Lanka can lead to unsafe and clandestine abortions, risking women's health and lives. The laws infringe upon women's autonomy and privacy, violating fundamental human rights principles. Societal disparities compound these issues, disproportionately affecting marginalized women. The cultural and religious contexts deeply influence public perceptions and policy debates surrounding abortion. Research highlights Sri Lankan abortion complex interplay between human rights, cultural values, and legal regulations. It emphasizes the urgent reform needed for women's health, autonomy, and societal concerns. It is suggested that the abortion laws in Sri Lanka should be re-evaluated, the public should be informed about this, proper education should be provided, and the community discourse on reproductive health and rights should be expanded.

Keywords: *Abortion, Legalization, Marginalized, Re-evaluated*

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Safeguarding Child Rights in Post-Pandemic Sri Lanka

M.A. Siththi Aneesa¹

Abstract

This abstract delves into the complex issues of human rights violations against children in post-pandemic Sri Lanka. The pandemic has brought forth a host of challenges for children in Sri Lanka during this period, with the main issue being violations that are highlighted on a daily basis. These violations infringe upon children's fundamental rights, as guaranteed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The main objective of the research is to raise awareness within society about children's rights, the risks to the future of children, the importance of quality education, and the creation of a society that upholds these rights. This research also seeks to help mitigate child rights violations and promote collaborative efforts among government bodies, agencies, organizations, and institutions to protect children's rights in selected areas. This research uses quantitative and it primarily involves a comprehensive data collection approach, utilizing both interviews and questionnaires. These data-gathering instruments have been administered to key stakeholders, including schools, the Child Protection Authority, and district registration offices Hambantota and Colombo district. Through in-depth interviews the impact of the pandemic on the well-being and rights of children in Sri Lanka were sort. One significant outcome of this research is the increased awareness within society regarding the critical importance of safeguarding children's rights. The study also highlights the risks that threaten the future of Sri Lankan children, emphasizing the urgent need for quality education and the creation of a society that staunchly upholds these rights. Furthermore, this research identifies the pressing need for concerted efforts to mitigate child rights violations. Collaborative initiatives involving government bodies, agencies, organizations, and institutions are essential to effectively protect children's rights. The selected areas of Hambantota district and Colombo district serve as examples where such collaborative efforts can be implemented. From this research found lakness of awareness of child rights and initiated positive changes in the society in this areas. Also can be seen of motivation and participation of safeguarding child rights among school children. This can mitigate child rights violations of Children in Colombo and Hambantota Districts.

Keywords: *Child Rights, Pandemic, Protection, Sri Lanka, Violations*

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“Beyond Pink and Blue” A Study of Sri Lanka’s Response to the Human Rights Issue of Homosexual Community in Sri Lanka

M.U.I. Silva¹

Abstract

Homosexuality goes beyond blue and pink or a combination thereof. What are the challenges homosexual individuals in Sri Lanka face in connection to human rights, and how could the importance, weaknesses, and role of initiatives that propose policies of equality be analyzed? The primary objective of this study is to identify the fundamental challenges related to human rights violations faced by the homosexual community in Sri Lanka and the legal interpretation of them. In addition, to understand the types of discrimination and violations, to examine the role of related initiatives concerned, and finally to propose policies that provide equality to all, as a contemporary issue, this investigation has crucial significance because of the sensitivity with which it examines the various sexual orientations, their privacy, and their legal and human rights obligations toward them. The study is carried out with a qualitative approach. The primary data was gathered by using an online questionnaire, covering Sri Lanka with 98 gay and lesbian participants. Also, online and library sources, including books, articles, news, the Constitution, and statutes, are used as secondary data. According to the questionnaire, the main challenge that homosexuals are experiencing is one related to the health sector. 56.5% of the people who responded to the questionnaire did not seek help for the challenges against them, and 27.2% sought help. Therefore, the right mechanism should be implemented to respond to such challenges and should be oriented towards homosexual people. The aspiration of the group is that a developmental and educational awareness of human rights should be started through primary education, and society should increase awareness. The propriety of sections 365 and 365 (A) of the penal code is thus examined. Through this study, human rights violations against homosexuals and Sri Lanka’s response to them can be identified.

Keywords: *Homosexuality, Heterosexuals, Human Rights, Sexual Orientations, Violation*

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In The Wake of Equality – The Realization of the Rights of Third Gender Persons in South - Asia

R.L.R.C.P. Rajapaksha¹

Abstract

Gender identity is one of the most fundamental aspects of life. However, relatively few people experience problems with being a member of a sex recorded at a birth (gender identity). This may also be the case for intersex individuals whose bodies include both or specific aspects of both male and female physiology and sometimes their genital anatomy. Gender Recognition Act (2004) is the most important legislation that extend the rights of trans genders. The identification and social acceptance of these transgender exists in different ways, one by societies, and one by culture. However, it should be emphasized that transsexuals also have the right to the human rights granted to all human beings by the United Nations. Lot of clear differences can be seen in the European culture and the South Asian culture regarding the acceptance of these trans genders by their own society. Transgender people experience high levels of intolerance and direct violence and their basic human rights are violated, including the right to life, the right to physical integrity and right to health. In the current international system, paid attention to these transsexuals in a very wide way. This study is based on qualitative research methodology that uses secondary data sources which collected from academic journals, reports, publications and websites. The key findings of this study are to find out how South Asian countries use Tran genders for both international and international activities, as well as to find out how their fundamental rights are violated. It is very important to prepare a legal framework to accept transgender people in the cultural space that exists in South Asian countries. South Asian countries can also eliminate this social gap through the active use of transgender people for their external and internal affairs. Thus, their rights are protected and security is created.

Keywords: *Sexuality, Human Rights, Transgender, Violate, Equal*

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Assessing Health Care Access and Disparities in South Sudan: A UDHR Perspective

Ridmi Kaushika¹

Abstract

The UDHR is a crucial document that upholds the right to health, mainly in the African region. During the pandemic and post-pandemic eras, it was possible to explore healthcare access, vaccination distribution, and pandemic preparedness as key indicators of adherence to the fundamental principles that are important to promote equitable healthcare access for African citizens. However, the problem revolves around understanding the significant challenges due to the lack of basic facilities in countries such as South Sudan. Even though some states have made progress, the right to healthcare access still has certain disparities in South Sudan. Thus, the main aim of this study is to assess the issues countries face when adhering to the UDHR's right to health in South Sudan. Furthermore, this study also looks forward to evaluating healthcare access improvements aiming to reduce disparities in South Sudan. This study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative research methods. It primarily relies on secondary data from government reports of South Sudan, and academic studies and would be analyzed using content analysis methods. This research provides outcomes that depicts South Sudan's adherence to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights' right to health varies significantly, with some areas demonstrating a stronger commitment to equitable healthcare access and pandemic preparedness than others. It also indicated that rural and marginalized communities often experiencing limited access to essential healthcare services, exacerbating existing health inequalities. Yet this study has limitations, as the data is only available up to a certain cut-off date, and the diverse nature of the South Sudan has not been covered in a nuanced manner. The significance of this is crucial, as it provides insights for policymakers, international organizations, and stakeholders in designing targeted strategies to promote equitable healthcare access.

Keywords: *Healthcare Access, Post-pandemic, Right to Health, UDHR*

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Sino-Indian Power Struggle in the Indian Ocean and Its Impact on Sri Lanka

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Abstract

The Indian Ocean serves as a vital link connecting the Middle East, Africa, East Asia, Europe, and the Americas. The Indian Ocean has become crucial in the economic strategies of major developed nations like India, Japan, the USA, and China. Emerging countries, especially India, have also contributed to its growing importance. With the rise of China, driven by initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative, concerns have grown among major powers about its rapid economic expansion. Consequently, India plays a pivotal role in the region to maintain its dominant position and counter Chinese influence. Both India and China leverage neighboring states to showcase their strength, making countries like Sri Lanka, situated in the heart of the Indian Ocean, key players in this power struggle. This study aims to explore the impacts, both positive and negative, of the Sino-India power struggle on Sri Lanka's political and economic landscape, with a focus on international developments since 2013. It employs a qualitative research approach, drawing from secondary sources such as reports, books, online journals, videos, and articles. Descriptive analysis is used to interpret the research findings. The study also examines the roles of regional organizations like IORA, BIMSTEC, IONS, Quad, BRI, and Sagarmala in contributing to this struggle. This research uncovers the multifaceted political and economic consequences of the Sino-Indian power struggle in Sri Lanka, within the specified timeframe. While recognizing that other regional countries are also affected by this contest, the analysis predominantly centers on Sri Lanka. Overall, it provides insights into the intricate dynamics and outcomes of the China-India power rivalry in the Indian Ocean region, with a specific emphasis on Sri Lanka, contributing to a deeper understanding of the evolving international system and its impact on regional actors.

Keywords: *BRI, Geographical Significant, Indian Ocean, Impacts*

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Envisioning India's Emergence as a 2nd Global Superpower by 2050

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Abstract

In the evolving global order, traditional Western dominance is yielding ground to the ascent of Asian powers, prominently China and India. The ongoing rivalry between these two nations to establish dominion in Asia and claim the mantle of a global superpower is palpable. The Yahoo financials' projection has been predicted that India could ascend to global superpower status by 2050. This discourse delves into the intricacies of the forecast envisioning India as the second superpower by 2050, elucidating the underlying determinants bolstering this projection. Employing a qualitative approach, the study draws upon diverse secondary sources including scholarly journals, relevant documents, digital platforms, conference proceedings, public addresses, and authoritative literature. The findings underscore India's strategic endeavors to enhance its international stature, even amid economic disparities. The capitalizes on its cultural diversity to attract foreign exchange through tourism and remittances, India's prominence in the global entertainment industry, coupled with ownership of a premier cricket team, exemplifies its soft power influence. Advances in nuclear testing, space exploration, scientific researches, and technological innovation further reinforce India's trajectory. Chandrayaan-3's successful moon landing and global chess runner-up boosted India's reputation. Despite prevailing socio-economic challenges such as poverty, child marriage, and geopolitical tensions, India's prospects remain promising. In conclusion, while challenges persist, a comprehensive evaluation points towards a plausible trajectory for India to attain the status of the second global superpower by 2050. Skillful navigation of these challenges and adept harnessing of opportunities will intricately shape India's role on the world stage in the forthcoming decades. With strategic finesse, India stands poised to realize its potential as a formidable global power.

Keywords: *Contemporary World, Chandrayaan-3, India, Global Superpower, Soft Power, Yahoo*

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India's Post-pandemic Foreign Policy in South Asia:

Special Reference to the Vaccine Diplomacy

Dasuni A. Hapugoda¹

Abstract

This research study delves into the intricate and evolving foreign policy landscape of India within the South Asian region in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a particular emphasis on "Vaccine Diplomacy." As the world faced unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic, India emerged as a key player in global response drawing international attention for its vaccine production and distribution efforts. This research examines India's multifaceted approach to regional diplomacy, focusing on its strategic and diplomatic outreach, particularly in the context of providing COVID-19 vaccines to neighboring countries. The study assesses the geopolitical implications, economic interests, and soft power dynamics that underlie India's South Asian policy post-pandemic. The study also evaluates the challenges and opportunities that India faces in consolidating its position as a regional leader in South Asia through its vaccine diplomacy efforts. Employing a mixed-methods approach, this research combines qualitative analysis of diplomatic discourse and policy documents with quantitative assessment of vaccine distribution data. The findings highlight the necessity for cooperative solutions to handle common regional problems by illuminating the intricate interaction between politics, diplomacy, and public health in forming India's post-pandemic foreign policy. In conclusion, the study seeks to contribute to the understanding of the evolving dynamics in the region and the role of vaccine diplomacy in shaping India's regional and global influence.

Keywords: *Foreign Policy, Geopolitics, India, Regional Influence, Soft Power, Vaccine Diplomacy*

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Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord Act of 1987 How Could Pave the Path to Political Stability in Sri Lanka

H.W. Akila Thushara Thilakasiri¹

Abstract

In Sri Lanka, the civil war fought from 1983 to 2009 was shaped by ethnic rivalry between the majority Sinhala and the minority Tamil. On the surface level whether the end result was defeating the Tamil militancy (LTTE) by Sri Lanka's government military forces, this ethnic rivalry resulted in political instability long lasted for 30 years. Sri Lanka's civil war phenomena had its foreign interferences likewise China, India, USA, and Pakistan, and from those countries, the Indian impact was very heavy in terms of foreign intervention. The Indo-Lanka peace accord signed on 29th July 1987 demanded the Sri Lanka government to devolve power to the provinces and it included Sri Lanka to merge the northern and Eastern provinces into one administrative unit. Devolution of power and establishment of provincial councils act were crucial demands from the Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord Act. The 13th amendment to the constitution mentioning devolved power by creating 09 provinces also resulted from the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord whether it is still not powered by the Sri Lankan government. Therefore, the main objective of this research is to explore the power devolution demand action to the provincial councils derived through the Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord and examine how those changes could pave the path to political stability in Sri Lanka. To reach the above-mentioned objective, a qualitative method was used, which was primarily based on secondary data gathered from diverse sources including journal articles, reports, and related literature. This study comparatively focus on Nigerian example of Federalism and what about we can gain through their experience and also what we can accept or avoid. The research findings suggest the relationship between federalism and political stability in Sri Lanka and how a healthy federation can be a political panacea for political instability.

Keywords: *Devolution of Power, Ethnic Rivalry, Indo-Lanka Peace Accord, Political Stability, Provincial Councils*

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Balancing Foreign Policy between Neighbors and Friends: The Case of Sri Lanka

Anudi Jayathilake¹

Abstract

The concept of Foreign Policy is vividly portrayed as a strategic sequence of activities within a global arena. States possess vivid foreign policies which are aimed to achieve National Interests along with a main consideration to economic, social, and cultural sectors. Sri Lanka's foreign policy is formulated on the basis of the policies of leaders. Different leaders have emphasized the importance of establishing healthy relations with the neighbors, India and friends, China. Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike's foreign policy stands unique in balancing the foreign policy between neighbors and friends. This research paper extensively describes the Sri Lankan perspective of maintaining equilibrium in foreign policy focusing on the trailblazing foreign policy of the elegant leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike. Hence, the research paper vividly analyses on how the strategies employed by Mrs. Bandaranaike namely, shuttle diplomacy, balance of power and the policy of non-Alignment aided in balancing the foreign policy while encountering the changing nature of geopolitics. The vibrant research methodology includes a detailed data analysis via a specific range of primary and secondary sources which includes research papers, journal articles, books, letters, government documents, speeches, and interviews. Subsequently, this research becomes significant as it portrays an overview on the efficient maintenance of equilibrium of the Sri Lankan foreign policy and how the modern politicians could utilize the same strategies to address key issues. The specific research findings elaborate on the pivotal analysis on the establishment of strong and healthy relations with the Communist bloc via the strategy of "Balance of Power". Thereby, it aims to counterbalance the Indian influence and reduce the interdependency. Hence, the vibrant research recommends the application of a Non-Aligned foreign policy strategically within modern politics.

Keywords: *Foreign Policy, National Interests, Non-Alignment, Shuttle Diplomacy*

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Post Pandemic Health Diplomacy in South Asia: A Case Study of SAARC's Post - Covid Regional Reengagement with South Asian Nations

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Abstract

This paper examines the role played by South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in the era that followed the covid-19 pandemic and the influence that it had in bringing post-pandemic resilience within the South Asian region. The objective of this study is to identify how South Asian Nations came together to work hand-in-hand with SAARC for the safety of their citizens and to identify the degree of influence that SAARC's policies had in healing a contaminated and unstable post-pandemic Asia. South Asia had long been engulfed in regional animosity followed by the India-Pakistan rivalry. Thus, the particular significance of the study is to elucidate how SAARC stands under the highlight amidst the other regional organizations in executing its reengagement policy which brought the South Asian nations together in strategic dialogue, with the aim of establishing a sustainable and healthy outreach to the mayhem caused by the Covid19 pandemic. The study which analyzes the post-pandemic policies of SAARC follows a qualitative approach based on secondary data sources gathered mainly through documents published by SAARC Secretariat. The findings of the research purports that SAARC has been able to configure a new post-pandemic architecture that has improved regional response rates of the nations and thereby has augmented the quality of life of South Asian people applied. All in all, it could be derived that, in spite of the inefficiencies and undiscerning policies of SAARC, it had been able to maintain a considerable amount of stability and resistance within the South Asian region followed by the Covid19 pandemic.

Keywords: *Covid-19, Health Diplomacy, Pandemic, SAARC, South Asia*

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Illegal Cross-Border Drug Trafficking; A Case Study of India and Sri Lanka

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Abstract

The usage of illegal narcotics is gathering momentum in status quo in a severe way. Thousands of human lives are swallowed by those harmful drugs daily. On the other hand, drug trafficking has become a huge crime in the maritime security domain. Under this circumstance, the security of the states has threatened to a greatest extent. Trafficking of illegal drugs through marine lines has become the most cardinal way of dispensing them in prevailing conditions. In this context, the Region of South Asia can be identified as one of the most powerful square and the countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and India can be recognized as the prominent hubs of distributing and selling narcotics. With regard to that, due to the geographical close proximity to India and the strategically situated in the basic roots of drug trafficking, Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle, Sri Lanka also has become a main house of distributing those illicit narcotics. Additionally, Sri Lanka serves as a hub for the transshipment of heroin into the nation, which primarily originates from Indian regions. Heroin trafficking from Indian regions, such as Kerala, for domestic consumption might be described as the most significant drug issue in the modern age. Parallel to this, drug trafficking has grown to be a serious danger to both states' security and peace. Additionally, it has had an impact on the bilateral relationship's economic concerns, trust, and cooperation, as well as its diplomatic concerns. The study has largely identified the dangers to the harmony of India and Sri Lanka's bilateral relations. Finally, the study offers a variety of suggestions for reducing the trafficking of illegal drugs. The research was conducted using both primary and secondary sources in a qualitative manner.

Keywords: *Drug Trafficking, India, Maritime Security, Peace, Sri Lanka, South Asia*

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The Resurgence of Nationalism in the Post COVID-19 Era; Case Study of Italy and Finland

Sanduni Iddagoda¹, Daupadi Suduwelikanda², Vithakshi Karunasena³

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic, which emerged in late 2019, has had profound and far-reaching effects on societies worldwide. It initially fostered a sense of global solidarity and cooperation, with nations working together to combat the virus. However, as the crisis deepened, it also exposed vulnerabilities and inequities within and between nations and the global impact spurred increased emphasis on self-reliance, national identity, and the protection of domestic interests. Thus, this paper examines how a global crisis influences the resurgence of nationalism with a special focus on how the COVID-19 pandemic served as a catalyst for the rise of nationalist sentiments in Italy and Finland. Furthermore, this intends to explore the role of political leadership in shaping nationalist narratives during a global crisis, emphasizing either collective responsibility or exclusive nationalism. The study is based on qualitative and secondary data gathered from websites, books, journals, and exploratory case studies of Italy and Finland, and the research question is addressed through the concept of nationalism, following a descriptive analysis of the collected data. The analysis emphasizes the drastic political ramifications that delve into the transformation of left-wing politics towards right-wing orientations in the aftermath of the pandemic, which is particularly centered on nationalism. This highlighted the intricate interplay between COVID-19 and the resurgence of nationalism, which is crucial in understanding the dynamics to navigate the post-pandemic world effectively. Overall, it emphasizes the complexity of national responses to global crises and offers insights into the factors that drive the resurgence of nationalist sentiments in times of global crisis. Further research is required to explore the long-term consequences of this resurgence and its impact on international relations, global governance, and the pursuit of common global goals.

Keywords: *COVID-19, Finland, Italy, Nationalism*

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Vaccine Diplomacy An Analysis of the Distribution of COVID-19 Vaccines by the World Health Organization (WHO) in the Global South during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Chameera Gallage¹

Abstract

COVID-19 has dramatically altered the apparatus of the diplomatic sphere in the international system. Traditional dimensions and approaches on which the conceptual framework with regard to diplomacy has been underpinned were obsolete. Therefore, observing new directions in relation to diplomacy is a prerequisite thing in reshaping the international system. Rolling out vaccination against COVID-19 was the only pharmaceutical approach within which the pandemic could be mitigated. The process of manufacturing vaccines was nationalized and there was an asymmetrical distribution of vaccines among nation states which had been impacted immensely. Despite the fact that the World Health Organization (WHO) has been an imperative factor within which the equal distribution of vaccines was regularized, no proper mechanism was established in order to streamline the whole process. This paper discusses the way in which the associated factors in relation to unequal distribution were studied as well as what sort of hindrances had to be dealt by the WHO in implementing the concept of vaccine diplomacy in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. This study adapted the neoliberal theoretical perspectives in International Relations in order to embark upon this research. Both qualitative and quantitative methods (mixed method) were followed as the research method. Post-positivist methodology was used to implement this study because this is an interpretive research. The research question has been formulated as “What were the significant factors which were exacerbated the equal distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in the global south?”. The WHO has not been able to proportionately distribute the COVID vaccines in the midst of the pandemic.

Keywords: *Global South, International System, Neoliberalism, Pandemic, Vaccine Diplomacy*

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Japan during the Cold War: The Story of Economic Transformation

M.A.P.P. Mallawa arachchi¹

Abstract

After the immense destruction brought about by World War II, not every war-torn nation was able to recover so quickly. Yet during the Cold War, an Asian nation - Japan saw an incredible turnaround from a badly damaged economy to the second largest economy on earth. This study aims to look at the extraordinary economic growth of Japan and the Cold War-era reorganization of global politics. The research aims to demonstrate the key factors that contributed to the nation's recovery from the huge loss of life and property resulting from World War II. Its ascent from the wreckage of World War II is unparalleled. Nevertheless, it succeeded in reviving thanks to the implementation of sensible industrial strategies, technological breakthroughs, and global trade integration. One of the study's main concerns involves the socioeconomic effects of World War II's extensive damage. The research based on the postwar effects will thoroughly examine the strategic decisions that caused such a tremendous economic upheaval. The importance of the government's engagement was highlighted by this study. A specified variety of primary and secondary sources, including particular documents, journal articles, books, letters, speeches, and interviews, are thoroughly examined as part of the crucial data analysis required for the research. Furthermore, Japan has done an incredible job of showing how crucial technological advances are for a nation to revive its economy and remain on the world stage. The report emphasizes how innovations in a variety of disciplines, including communication, provided Japan a competitive edge in global markets. In addition to the enormous socio-cultural transformations that Japan faced, the research will concentrate more on the economic lessons that may be drawn from Japan.

Keywords: *Cold War, Economic Lessons, Reviving, Turnaround, Strategic Decisions, Trade Integration*

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Impact of Covid-19 on Sri Lanka's Foreign Policy

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Abstract

This paper aims at discussing the impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on the Foreign Policy of Sri Lanka based on the question what are the long-term transformative changes Sri Lankan Foreign Policy underwent due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. As the pandemic took hold over world, number of vulnerabilities in Sri Lanka was recognized. There was a shift in the priorities of Foreign Policy. And under this circumstance, Foreign Policy was adjusted to better protect and promote interests of Sri Lanka and this has led to a long-term shift in Foreign Policy apparatus which impacted the country's strategic considerations and diplomatic priorities. It is important to recognize what these new Foreign Policy developments are and how they have impacted Sri Lankan Foreign Policy in the post- pandemic world as they will shape the Foreign Policy agenda of Sri Lanka. This research has employed a qualitative research method based on secondary data gathered and analyzed from various sources such as journal articles, books, and official documentation from ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka. Due to Covid-19 Sri Lankan policy makers have understood the economic vulnerability of Sri Lanka and negative implications of its overdependence on global supply chains focusing on economic realignment to reduce vulnerability. Also due to the pandemic, relations with regional powers were reevaluated and vaccine diplomacy came to the forefront of Foreign Policy priorities. The change Sri Lankan Foreign Policy underwent during the pandemic reflects its resilience and adaptability in the face of global challenges and health security, economic resilience and digital diplomacy will continue to be key components of Sri Lankan Foreign Policy in post-pandemic world.

Keywords: *Covid-19, Diplomacy, Foreign Policy, Sri Lanka*

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Tension between National Interests and Global Solidarity: An Analysis of the COVID-19 Response of the UK, India, and Sri Lanka

B. L. Lokubarana ¹

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic illustrates the tension between nations prioritizing their domestic interests and the urgent need for global solidarity, cooperation, and shared responsibility. This dynamic, deeply embedded in a theoretical framework that encompasses political, social, and economic paradigms, is evident in the diverse responses of nations such as the UK, a superpower; India, an emerging power; and Sri Lanka, a developing country. The research aims to analyze and compare the COVID-19 responses of these nations to decode the complex interplay between national priorities, international cooperation, and theoretical constructs. In a globalized world, understanding this delicate balance is essential, especially during a crisis, as it informs future diplomatic, health, and socio-economic policies and builds resilience in the international system. Qualitative research methods were employed, analyzing literature, governmental communications, policy documents, and international treaties/agreements, illuminating patterns of national and international actions and interests during the pandemic's evolution. The UK's vaccine rollout initially prioritized national needs but later contributed significantly to COVAX, marking a shift from a national to a global focus, a transition elucidated by underlying theoretical constructs. India used vaccine diplomacy as a soft power tool but retracted due to domestic urgencies. Sri Lanka leaned heavily on international goodwill, a decision influenced by theoretical considerations of national capacity and international benevolence. In conclusion, the spectrum of pandemic responses, from initial nationalistic tendencies to collaborative efforts, is more comprehensible when viewed through a theoretical lens. The early emphasis on international collaboration and theoretical groundwork can expedite response times and mitigate nationalistic tendencies, fostering a robust global recovery during future crises.

Keywords: *COVID-19 Response, Global Solidarity, National Interests, Shared Responsibility, Tension*

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Covid-19 Vaccine Diplomacy as a Soft Power Tool: A Comparative Study of China, Russia and India

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Abstract

Regarding the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic China, Russia, and India have employed Covid-19 vaccine diplomacy strategies to enhance their soft power influence on the international stage. China has partnered with over 20 developing countries, enhancing the mercerization of its vaccines. India supplied 60 million doses abroad in mid- March 2021, bilaterally supplying vaccines to 48 countries. Russia has pledged to provide the Russian vaccine to anyone and UN staff for free, and the Russian Direct Investment Fund promotes Sputnik V abroad. This research aims to address this gap by conducting a comparative analysis of China, Russia, and India's Covid-19 vaccine diplomacy initiatives, with a focus on understanding the challenges and opportunities they pose in reshaping international relations and perceptions of these nations as global actors. The Objectives of this research are analyse and compare the strategies employed by China, Russia, and India in their Covid-19 vaccine diplomacy efforts , measure the effectiveness of these strategies in enhancing their soft power, building international alliances, and achieving diplomatic goals. This research topic is significant as it examines the multifaceted role of vaccine diplomacy in international relations, with a focus on major global players, contributing to a better understanding of the evolving dynamics of diplomacy in the 21st century. This study use mixed method by using primary and secondary data. The Study's findings suggest that their strategies of vaccine diplomacy are enabled as well as constrained by their economic realities, and the rise of these countries in this field does not necessarily mean an outright challenge to the existing international system.

Keywords: Covid-19, Soft Power, Strategies, Vaccine diplomacy

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Strategies to Enhance the Indo - Sri Lankan Foreign Policy to Overcome the Economic Collapse in Sri Lanka with Special Reference to Post Pandemic Era

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Abstract

This abstract explores strategic approaches to bolster Indo-Sri Lankan foreign policy in the wake of Sri Lanka's economic collapse amidst the challenges posed by the post-pandemic world. The economic downturn in Sri Lanka, exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, has necessitated a reevaluation of foreign policy strategies to secure economic stability and resilience. The study examines Sri Lanka's economic crisis, highlighting its vulnerability and the need for a comprehensive foreign policy framework. It suggests deepening economic cooperation with India, enhancing trade agreements and investments. Focusing on renewable energy, agriculture, and technology can create jobs, boost exports, and promote regional stability. Furthermore, the study emphasizes the importance of diplomatic engagement and soft power initiatives to enhance Sri Lanka's global image. To achieve the research objectives both qualitative and quantitative research methods were used to be identified the achievements. Case studies, surveys, content analysis and statistical analysis were the methods that were used under methodology. Promoting cultural exchange, educational partnerships, and tourism can help foster goodwill and attract foreign investments. Overall this study proposes a multifaceted approach to enhance Indo-Sri Lankan foreign policy aimed at overcoming Sri Lanka's economic collapse in the post-pandemic world. Sri Lanka intended towards economic recovery, stability, and long-term resilience in a rapidly changing international environment by expanding relationships, placing a high priority on sustainable development, and launching diplomatic measures.

Keywords: *Covid-19 Pandemic, Economic Crisis, Indo - Sri Lanka Relations*

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Digital Diplomacy vs. Traditional Diplomacy: A Comparative Analysis in the Post-Pandemic Landscape

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Abstract

As said by Cohen (1998), diplomacy, the “engine room” of international relations, is an essential tool that governments worldwide use to achieve their foreign policy objectives and influence the decisions and behavior of foreign governments through dialogue, negotiations or other peaceful measures. Diplomacy, in the present day context, has undergone significant changes, especially, with the advancement of technology and the outbreak of unprecedented phenomena such as the COVID-19 pandemic. With the emergence of the pandemic, digitalization started to develop at a rapid pace and digital tools, particularly zoom technology, began to play a significant role within the scope of diplomacy as the pandemic restricted face-to-face communication. Given that states have become more inclined to use digital tools rather than conduct their foreign relations the traditional way, this study intends to examine whether traditional diplomacy has been replaced by digital diplomacy, particularly focusing on the period following the global pandemic, while understanding how these developments have influenced the field of diplomacy. In order to attain the foretold objective of the study, a qualitative research approach has been adopted by collecting data through secondary data sources such as publications, academic articles, reports, journal articles, books and other media sources while analyzing the data using the content analysis method. Findings of the study reveal that in the post-pandemic era, traditional diplomacy has not been entirely replaced by digital diplomacy but has undergone a significant transformation. The study further evaluates the irreplaceable aspects of traditional diplomacy while maintaining its value in certain contexts. The research findings conclude that while digital diplomacy has gained prominence today due to its convenience and accessibility, traditional diplomacy remains relevant for situations demanding a more personal touch, confidentiality and a deep understanding of cultural dynamics. Both forms of diplomacy are likely to coexist, with their roles adapting to the specific contexts and challenges of the modern world.

Keywords: *Diplomacy, Digital Diplomacy, Digitalization, Post- pandemic*

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The Propension of Indian Immigrants to join Sri Lankan Cinema as Actors

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Abstract

The phenomenon of immigration has played a significant role in shaping the cultural landscapes of various societies around the world. The Indian-Sri Lankan relationship is deeply rooted in historical, cultural, and geographical ties, and these connections have manifested in various forms, including cinema. Films featuring Indian actors have consistently recorded high revenue figures, prompting Sri Lankan film directors to engage with Indian talent to cater to local audiences. This study delves into the motivations, challenges, and impacts of Indian immigrants venturing into the Sri Lankan film industry. Using a mixed methods approach comprising qualitative interviews with Indian immigrants who have pursued acting careers in Sri Lankan cinema and quantitative analysis of industry data and historical trends, this research uncovers the factors that attract Indian immigrants to the Sri Lankan film industry. These factors include socio-cultural ties, economic opportunities, and personal aspirations. Furthermore, this study assesses the broader repercussions of Indian immigrants' participation in the Sri Lankan film industry, including their economic contributions and the potential for shaping cultural and economic relations between the two nations. Ultimately, the findings affirm the positive state of Indian immigrants' involvement in Sri Lankan cinema. By examining their motivations, challenges, and influences, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of how their migration shapes creative spaces.

Keywords: *Cultural Impact, Immigration Motivations, Indian Actors, Indian Immigrants' Cinema, Sri Lankan Film Industry*

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Social Media's: Facebook, WhatsApp, Telegram, Twitter; Functions in Engaging Activists for Protest Movements

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Abstract

Social media refers to online platforms and websites that allow users to produce, share, and engage with content. These platforms have a significant impact on political participation, particularly in terms of protest behavior. To satisfy the wants and expectations of numerous competing social groupings, the state might not have the resources to do so. As a result, social media became a tool that allowed for the rapid organization of protests. The main research problem is how the protest movement is supported on social media and whether it is successful. The main objective of this study is to examine how social media has been supported in response to repression in protest movements, through an examination of the digital tactics protest leaders used to plan uprisings and persuade the uncertain. The main significance is that although there are many studies on social media and political protest separately, the research on the relationship between social media functions and protest movements remains limited. A more systematic and comprehensive analysis is required for identifying it. Considering the methodology, the whole research is qualitative research and secondary data will be used. Secondary data which are collected through journals, reports, news reports, interviews, and articles is the primary form of data used in this study. Content analysis and discourse analysis are the primary approaches to analysis. Therefore, the study's conclusions were obtained after an accurate review of the relevant data sources and literature. The whole discussion intends to focus on the relationship between the functions of social media and protest movements with relevant examples. In addition, that, this study inherently concluded that technological development and social media have a significant impact on the protest movement and immediate actions should be taken by the relevant governments and other organizations to avoid ongoing political conflicts and maintain the balance of power in the future.

Keywords: *Activists, Instability, Politics, Protests, Social Media*

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The Impact of Facebook on Human Rights Violations against Young Women (Aged 18-28) in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

The development of social media sites, especially Facebook, has changed the way people interact with and communicate with digital materials in recent years. Young women in Sri Lanka face challenges as they navigate online spaces where human rights violations such as online harassment and cyber bullying. The issue at stake is the need to fully understand and address Facebook's contribution to these human rights abuses in this particular Sri Lankan demographic. To free young women from the stress caused by Facebook. Conducting interviews and examining their experiences by providing data to a selected period of time as primary data. Data can be examined from information obtained from statistics and newspapers as secondary data. These secondary and primary data are examined from young women aged 18-28 years. Qualitative data can be obtained by conducting an interview with a selected group covering the districts of Sri Lanka. Study the data by giving a survey for a selected period covering the districts of Sri Lanka to obtain quantitative information. A conclusion can be reached about how the psychological impact of the violation of young women's rights affects the general well-being of life and the mechanisms that victims must overcome to report abuse in the protection of rights. Central guidelines to encourage women, to develop digital literacy, and internet safety, conduct workshops on digital citizenship, and enact laws in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Facebook, Human Rights, Sri Lanka, Young Women*

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Exploring Mass Media's Role in Shaping Public Perception of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

In a period dominated by China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), it's pivotal to understand the mass media's role in shaping public perception. This study focuses on how Sri Lanka's media portray BRI Projects in Sri Lanka and its impact on the public perception. This research has three objectives; to examine how media portrays BRI in Sri Lanka, identify its impact on public perception, and eventually to understand how it affects Sri Lankans' view of BRI. This study will bridge knowledge gaps regarding the interplay between mass media, public perception, and the BRI while offering insight of media's role in shaping public perception and foreign policy. The research methodology used is a mixed-method approach combined with Norman Fairclough's critical Disclosure Analysis (CDA) with surveys to examine the media's impact on public perception. CDA examines different media from 2014-2022, such as TV and newspapers in Sri Lanka to identify prevailing themes, narratives, and patterns in BRI coverage. Surveys measure the media's influence on public perception, assaying Sri Lankans' views toward the BRI. The findings reveal a shifting public perception of China's BRI in Sri Lanka. Originally, from 2014 to 2017, the media portrayed the BRI as a positive force for Sri Lanka's economic development. The Hambantota port lease in 2017 triggered concerns about debt traps, leading to a more negative view. From 2018 to 2022, amongst the COVID-19 epidemic and economic crisis, the media's criticism of Chinese BRI investments intensified. The research emphasizes how the media's criticisms significantly influenced the public perception, with varying impacts based on individual demographics which contributed to a shift toward more negative views of the BRI in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *BRI, China, Debt-trap, Media, Perception*

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The Dissemination of South Korean Cultural Soft Power in Sri Lanka

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Dayarathne², Tharushi Udayangi Jayasinghe³

Abstract

Over the last decade, South Korea has captivated the world using the concept of soft power. As an emerging power country, South Korea has embraced culture as a primary source of soft power to influence the international system. The rise of South Korean culture in Sri Lanka within a short period of time is remarkable. The Hallyu or Korean Wave of South Korea is a cultural phenomenon that promotes South Korean culture on a global scale. In Sri Lanka, the first wave consisted of Korean dramas dubbed in the local language, while the second wave consisted of Korean pop music. The present New Hallyu Era comprises Korean online games, cuisine, fashion and beauty products which demonstrate South Korea's soft power in Sri Lanka. The primary objective of this paper was to investigate the implementation of culture as a soft power tool by South Korea and how it affects Sri Lanka. Both qualitative and quantitative methodologies were employed to conduct this study. Primary data were gathered using questionnaires and interviews from a selected number of participants while secondary data was gathered from online sources, journals and reports. A descriptive-analytical method was used to analyze the collected data. The research findings indicate that the dissemination of soft power has positively impacted Sri Lankans' perceptions towards South Korea. It has also led them to make an effort to learn and understand Korean culture and language. Moreover, Sri Lankans have been inspired to work in Korean companies which are in Sri Lanka and their desire to provide labor for South Korea was visible. Additionally, it builds a desire to visit South Korea for higher studies and to interact with South Korean people. In conclusion, this paper affirms that South Korea has been successful in using its culture to promote its image at the international level.

Keywords: *Korean Culture, Korean Language, Korean Wave, Soft Power, Sri Lanka*

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The Role of IMF in Restoring the Financial Stability of Developing Countries in the Post-pandemic Era (Case Study of Sri Lanka)

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Abstract

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is helping developing countries that the Covid-19 pandemic has inconvenienced. As a result, The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a 48-month Extended Fund Facility (EFF) of about 3 Billion USD to support Sri Lanka's Covid-19 post-pandemic era. Therefore, this research critically evaluates the role of the IMF in restoring the financial stability of Sri Lanka in the post-pandemic era. It has been examined here how the Covid-19 pandemic affects developing countries like Sri Lanka and why these countries need IMF support. As the significance of the research, it provides a lot of important information regarding the policy formulation of the governments and the way of conducting transactions with the IMF. Looking at the methodology, this research is a mixed method of mixing qualitative and quantitative data and content analysis carried out using secondary data. Regarding the main findings, this research found the impact of the structural changes made by the IMF on this country. There are several other solutions that Sri Lanka could consider for restoring its financial stability instead of an IMF loan. These include debt restructuring, asset sales, diaspora bonds, tourism promotion, export promotion, domestic revenue mobilization, public expenditure reforms, etc. It is important to note that these solutions have their challenges and risks. It is also important to note that Sri Lanka is unlikely to be able to fully recover from its economic crisis without the support of the international community. Some argue that the IMF's conditions are too harsh and will only worsen the situation for the poor and vulnerable, that there are better ways to solve Sri Lanka's problems than the IMF, and that the government should focus on domestic reforms. Despite the criticism, this research concludes that IMF support is a necessary step to restoring the financial stability of Sri Lanka in the post-pandemic era.

Keywords: *Developing Countries, Financial Stability, IMF, Sri Lanka*

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Women in Politics through the UN Democracies

Governance Framework with Special Reference to Sri Lanka, Nepal

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Abstract

This study explores the women's political participation and representation within the framework of United Nations democracies governance, while focusing on the case studies of Sri Lanka and Nepal. The ultimate objective of this study is to evaluate the progress, challenges which are women facing in politics, and how United Nations democratic principles impact on women's political involvement in these South Asian nations. "Women hold up half the sky" this statement typically manifests the value of women's role in the society. Women should be well educated, socialized, and supported by the legal framework of government. However, the female political representation seems to be not admirable than the male political participation. Lots of countries initiate allocation for equal political representation via gender basis. However, Sri Lanka is praised for being the foremost country which conceded right to vote for women in Asia. Nowadays Sri Lanka has conveyed some pragmatic steps to tackle crucial gap in female's local context political representation. Over the past 20 years, Nepal has achieved significant advancement in the areas of equality for women, women rights, and empowering women. The Nepal Government has launched a significant number of legislation changes aimed at eliminating gender-based discrimination. This study involved a mixed research method. The primary data were gathered through firsthand research and surveys. Secondary data found by questionnaires, and interviews. Moreover, the study measuring the effectiveness of various gender-sensitive policies and initiatives and attempts to figure out effective techniques and highlight possible barriers faced by women in political involvement by evaluating the distinctive situations and experiences of these nations. Hence, the results will help us understand how to use the UN framework to alleviate gender imbalances and promote inclusive democracies. It will examine how socioeconomic circumstances, institutional constraints, and cultural norms affect women's involvement.

Keywords: *Democracies, Discrimination, Equality, Political Representation*

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An Overview of European Union Green Deal Plan

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Abstract

Climate change can be known as one of severe threats in the existing world. In order to positively address the crucial challenges of climate change and environmental degradation in 2019 the European union launched green deal plan. Through this environmental policy EU aims to makes the economy of member states more environmentally friendly also find solutions for major challenges such as climate change, the scarcity of natural resources and emission of pollution gases and finally being the first climate neutral region by 2050. This paper reviews the main actions that has implemented by EU to positively address the climate change under the green deal plan. Through this paper author aims to deeply discuss and analyze about the strategies used by EU to achieve climate neutrality and challenges that can arise when implementing those strategies of new transition. The European union policy reports, journal articles, published papers used as sources to gather data. Both quantitative and qualitative research approaches are used to evaluate the progress made towards the plan's objectives and offer recommendations. In context this research study provides a comprehensive analysis of European union green deal plan and its implications on achieving development goals and addressing climate changes.

Keywords: *Climate Change, Climate Neutrality, European Union, Green Deal*

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Global Health Governance and Reforms in the Post Pandemic World to Address Health Emergencies: A Case Study on World Health Organization (WHO)

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Abstract

The Covid-19 pandemic has been able to expose a set of most critical flaws in the global health governance system. As a result, the international community understood the necessity of major reforms to enhance preparedness and coordination to address the health issues in the post pandemic world. In the global arena, World Health Organization is considered as a pivotal institution that contributes to navigate the global health governance. The main research problem of this research is to identify the global health governance and reforms for the WHO. The objective of the study is to investigate how the COVID-19 pandemic affected global health governance, highlighting the accomplishments and shortcomings of the current system and the urgent need for reform. It assesses feasible plans for enhancing the organization's capability to successfully address critical health emergencies in the future while guaranteeing equal access to healthcare and vaccines. To achieve the research objective, both qualitative and quantitative methods will be used to identify the achievements and shortcomings of the WHO during the pandemic and secondary data will be taken as the main type of data obtained from books, journal articles, and websites. This research provides valuable insights into the evolving landscape of international health governance in the wake of global health emergencies. The study's findings offer critical recommendations that can inform policy decisions and actions aimed at strengthening the WHO's capacity to respond swiftly and efficiently to global health crises and to mitigate future health crises effectively.

Keywords: *Global Health Governance, Pandemic, Reforms, Shortcomings World Health Organization*

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International Organizations' Collaborative Research Efforts to Build Post-Pandemic Resilience

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Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities in various sectors, necessitating International Organizations to lead research efforts to enhance post-pandemic resilience. The research aims to develop strategies to bolster resilience at global, national, and community levels, providing evidence-based insights into post-pandemic recovery and promoting preparedness for future crises. Qualitative and quantitative data gathered through reports, e-books, e-magazines, websites, journals will be used in this study. Key findings highlight the critical role of International Organizations in facilitating knowledge sharing and resource allocation for resilient recovery. Collaboration between International Organizations, governments, and civil society is essential to build resilience in the face of future crises. Suggestions include establishing a global research consortium, enhancing data sharing mechanisms, and integrating research findings into policy frameworks to ensure a more resilient post-pandemic world.

Keywords: *Collaboration, International Organizations, Pandemic, Policy Framework, Resilient*

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Game Theory: A Game-changer for Management Information Systems of International Organizations

Hasini Gunasekara¹, W.M.S.R.B. Wijayarathne²

Abstract

International organizations, despite the superficial “all is well” have their own fair share of challenges in the domain of Management Information Systems (MIS) and allocation of resources in a fair manner, reaching verdicts in a constantly changing sphere and correlating a vast array of stakeholders, are a few to name. This research explores the likelihood of fruitfully utilizing game theory to address the aforementioned challenges. Thus, the objectives of this research revolve around assessing the applicability of game theory in enhancing the effectiveness of MISs of international organizations, evaluating the influence of game theory in the decision making processes of these organizations and analyzing the pros and cons of employing game theory in this context. This research is significant in the way that game theory can be deemed as a successful approach to enhance the organizational success owing to increased efficiency in strategic decisions, simultaneously contributing to the sustainability of these organizations. A qualitative approach of analyzing real-world examples from a multitude of international organizations, is being employed. Key findings emphasize on the fact that game theory can optimize resource allocation, which is evident by UNHCR employing game theory to optimize allocation of resources to refugees. Furthermore, crucial decisions made on a global level, can be benefitted by a game theory approach, as evident by UN climate change conference (COP21), using this approach to model the negotiation decisions among various nations. Irrespective of the good side, this approach is equipped with its own challenges and the scarcity of data and unwillingness of people to change plays a pivotal role among them. Nevertheless, we can conclude that game theory undoubtedly lead to improved effectiveness of international organizations and better results can be reaped on addressing the challenges cited above.

Keywords: *Game Theory, International Organizations, Management Information Systems (MIS), Sustainability*

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The Role of Europe Union as a Regional Organization in Addressing Health Issues in Post-Pandemic

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Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of regional organizations in addressing health issues. The EU, as a regional organization, used its expertise and resources to assist member states in strengthening their healthcare systems and promoting public health. The European Union's (EU) role in tackling health challenges in the post-pandemic era is examined through research study. The problem statement centers around the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which exposed vulnerabilities in public health systems and the need for coordinated regional responses. This aims to evaluate the EU's efforts on health concerns, analyze the effectiveness of its policies, and comprehend the impact of its initiatives on member countries by considering EU health policies, strategies, and initiatives adopted during and after the epidemic. The research examines official reports, policy documents, and scholarly articles to provide a thorough understanding of the EU's approach to post-pandemic health concerns. Key findings indicate that the EU has shown outstanding resilience and adaptation in dealing with post-pandemic health challenges. The effect of health emergencies has been significantly reduced because of its collaborative strategy, which includes immunization distribution, cross-border cooperation, and information exchange. For policymakers, academics, and global health organizations, the research's value rests in illuminating how well the EU functions as a regional organization when addressing health issues. The EU's involvement in tackling health challenges in the post-pandemic age emphasizes the value of regional collaboration in protecting public health. This research suggests that member nations continue to collaborate, improve pandemic preparation, and incorporate lessons gained into future health policy.

Keywords: *European Union, Global Health Governance, Post-pandemic, Regional Organization*

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Analyzing India's Need for Permanent Membership of United Nations Security Council

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Abstract

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is crucial for assessing the integration of rising powers, with India's case exemplifying a developing power adapting to its expanded role and expectations. India's quest for permanent membership in the UNSC has been a longstanding diplomatic endeavor. India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and a major player in the Asia-Pacific region. India, as one of the world's largest and most populous democracies, has consistently argued that its inclusion as a permanent member in the UNSC is not just a matter of national pride, but a necessity for global stability and equity. The country has long sought permanent membership in the UNSC to reflect its growing stature on the global stage. This research paper provides an analysis of India's need for permanent membership in the UNSC. As far as the methodology of the research is concerned, this is qualitative research based on secondary data. The main sources of data collection include government reports, academic literature, websites, and other relevant sources. This research paper explores India's historical ties to the Security Council, its objectives, reform initiatives, and methods for securing a permanent seat. It analyzes India's growing economic and political power, commitment to global peace and security, and its current situation in the UNSC. The paper concludes that India's long-held desire for permanent membership can be realized through a realpolitik, pragmatic strategy involving tough power negotiations. However, potential challenges include tensions with neighboring countries and resistance from other UNSC members. The paper acknowledges India's justified bid for permanent membership and calls for the international community to seriously consider its role in shaping global security and governance.

Keywords: *Non-permanent Member, Regional Power, Permanent Membership, Pragmatic Strategy, United Nations Security Council*

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Analyzing the Economic Growth of Sri Lanka after the Post Pandemic Era with Special Reference to Tourism Industry

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Abstract

The tourist sector is one of Sri Lanka's most significant sources of revenue. But due to the absence of tourists visiting Sri Lanka because of the pandemic's effects, the economy significantly deteriorated during that time. All Sri Lankans' lives were drastically altered because of this economic disaster. The significance of this is to lay the foundation needed to develop Sri Lanka's economic prosperity. The authorities responsible for the tourism sector have, however, put into practices several strategies, including improving digital presence and online marketing, adopting health and safety protocols and certification schemes, offering financial relief and stimulus packages, supporting the unofficial sector and community-based tourism, and strengthening institutional capacity and coordination. Additionally, it is evident that the tourism sector is rebounding significantly thanks to non-authority sources' efforts for revenue generation, employment opportunities, infrastructure development, and cultural exchange. As a direct result of the expanding tourism sector, Sri Lanka's economy is also expanding to some extent. Research literature, Articles, Web sites, Journals are used as secondary data in this research. Several countries such as United Arab Emirates, Greece, Egypt and also South Asian countries such as Vietnam and Thailand have focused on developing their tourism industries in the post-pandemic era to stimulate economic growth and recovery. This study highlights Sri Lanka's economic recovery post-pandemic due to the collapse of the tourism sector. However, current measures are insufficient. But suggests implementing politically required measures could boost the economy and potentially revive other nations' tourism sectors.

Keywords: *Economy, Post-pandemic, Sri Lanka, Tourism*

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Changing Dimensions of Sri Lankan Economy with the Surge of Crypto currency during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Analysis of Sri Lankan Crypto currency through Global Crypto Frameworks

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Abstract

Crypto currency is a virtual currency without being backed by any tangible reserve. According to 'Pauxful', a Bitcoin trading platform, the monthly trading volume of Sri Lanka during 2019-2021 was 730% parallel to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite its' popularity, Crypto currency is not still considered as a legal tender in Sri Lanka. Rather, the market volume of Crypto currency in Sri Lanka is LKR 9, 637, 613 with over 320,000 user base. But on the other hand, Crypto-related illicit activities have also raised financial issues in Sri Lanka emphasizing the need of a regulatory mechanism which already many international countries have implemented at present. The main research problem of this study is to investigate why Sri Lanka is not regulating Crypto currency to mitigate financial insecurities to harness the benefits. The main objective of this study is to examine the financial threats born out of Sri Lankan Crypto while investigating how international countries have mitigated their risks through the policy frameworks that have been implemented. This study is a qualitative research based on secondary data. Findings reveal that the anonymity of the Crypto wallet which hides the transaction history and user identity is the main cause for financial insecurities further emphasizing that Sri Lanka's need to strengthen the Know Your Customer (KYC) and Anti Money Laundering (AML) regulations to ensure market integrity in compliance with the legal and regulatory framework. Indeed, there exists an imperative need for proper financial governance in Sri Lanka to address the Crypto currency market lacunas.

Keywords: *Crypto Currency, COVID-19, Financial, Regulate, Sri Lanka*

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Emerging Foreign Development Assistance Issues in Post Pandemic Era: A Case Study on Hambantota Port

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Abstract

Sri Lanka was one of the most prosperous nations, and also Sri Lanka faced an economic crisis. The pandemic has posed significant challenges to Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka's economy has suffered significant losses in foreign exchange earnings. And ever since, the country has heavily depended on foreign loans and financial aids. The Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) was the main obstacle to such a wish coming true. The goals of Sri Lanka's growth were dependent on the assistance provided by powerful nations like China. These aids, which came in the form of loans, enabled Sri Lanka to forge new diplomatic & economic ties, and construct new strategic assets like the Hambantota port, which would increase foreign investment in the nation and increase worldwide connectivity in order to promote international trade. To investigate the emerging issues of the Hambantota port development project in the areas of economic, politics and security, understand the strategic effects faced by the third parties due to the Sri Lanka & to get a clear understanding about the outcomes and in which direction the port will lead Sri Lanka's economic, political, security and strategic international relation status were the main objectives of this research. Being a pearl in China's "String of Pearls" policy, Sri Lanka may have been caught in a Chinese debt trap. China's development support has completely changed Sri Lanka's standing. The effects of the work done through these loans have benefited the broader people to a greater extent. The public frequently questioned the necessity of new initiatives and international accords as well as their intended outcomes, but wise acts of diplomacy have managed to keep the people in control to an extent. This research was focused on the Hambantota port and its effects on the economic, political, and security spheres in the post-pandemic era. Data and information for the study has been gathered from both primary and secondary sources. The research approach is classified as qualitative. Mainly, the various elements impacted by the growth of the Hambantota port in the post-pandemic era are thoroughly examined in this research.

Keywords: *China, Development Assistance, Hambantota Port, Pandemic, Strategic Asset*

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Reshaping International Trade: Adapting to Economic Realities in a Post-Pandemic World

M.P. Nuwanthi Madhushani Kumarathunga¹

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted international trade, causing disruptions in global supply chains and imposing trade restrictions. Sri Lanka, an emerging economy, has faced challenges in maintaining trade flows and addressing public health concerns. This abstract aims to analyze the impact of the pandemic on global trade patterns and supply chains, evaluate Sri Lanka's trade performance, identify opportunities and challenges, and propose policy recommendations to enhance trade resilience and competitiveness. The study will employ a mixed-methods approach, analyzing trade trends and policy responses. Qualitative analysis will involve reviewing trade-related literature and conducting interviews with trade experts. Quantitative data will be collected from international trade databases and national statistical sources. The study will cover the period from the onset of the pandemic to the present, analyzing trade trends and policy responses. The findings will provide valuable insights for Sri Lanka's trade policymakers and business community, suggesting policy recommendations such as diversifying export markets, investing in digital infrastructure, streamlining trade procedures, and enhancing trade promotion efforts. Based on the research findings, policy recommendations may include diversifying export markets, investing in digital infrastructure, streamlining trade procedures, and enhancing trade promotion efforts. These measures aim to strengthen Sri Lanka's position in the global marketplace and ensure its economic resilience in a post-pandemic world. In summary, the COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped the international trade landscape, presenting both challenges and opportunities for Sri Lanka. This research proposal seeks to explore the impact of the pandemic on global trade and Sri Lanka's role within this transformed environment, providing policy guidance for the country to thrive in a post-pandemic world.

Keywords: *COVID-19 Pandemic, International, Policy, Trade*

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Women's Economic Empowerment in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

This study focuses on women's economic empowerment in Sri Lanka, the measures implemented by the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs, and Social Empowerment to promote women's economic participation and assess their effectiveness. The study aims to understand the concept of women's economic empowerment, the measures taken by the Ministry, and their impact on women's economic empowerment in Sri Lanka. The research methodology involves a comprehensive review of existing literature, policy documents, and reports related to women's economic empowerment and the Ministry's initiatives. The study examines the measures implemented by the Ministry, such as skills development programs, access to financial resources, entrepreneurship support and policy advocacy. Through analysis and evaluation, the research assesses the outcomes and impact of these measures on women's economic empowerment, including factors such as increased employment opportunities, income generation, access to financial services, and improved socio-economic conditions. The study also identifies any gaps, challenges, or limitations that hinder the full realization of women's economic empowerment in Sri Lanka. Based on the findings, the research provides recommendations for further improvement and advancement in women's economic empowerment efforts. These recommendations include enhancing access to education and skills development, promoting financial inclusion, strengthening market linkages, and advocating for gender-responsive policies. Overall, the study emphasizes the importance of ongoing efforts to promote women's economic empowerment in Sri Lanka and suggests strategies to further enhance the Ministry's initiatives for a more inclusive and prosperous society.

Keywords: *Child Affairs, Economic Empowerment, Ministry's Initiatives, Social Empowerment*

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Structural Reforms to Social Safety Nets in Post-Pandemic Sri Lanka; Challenges and Way Forwards

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Abstract

Catastrophic socioeconomic and political shocks in recent years exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities in post-pandemic Sri Lanka. As this situation was not a position that the Government of Sri Lanka could face alone, the implications of the IMF's Extended Fund Facility arrangements were called for to stabilize the existing economy. A grant direction that is given attention here is the strengthening of social safety nets. To that end, the implementation of institutional reforms and the establishment of a Welfare Benefit Board are two key recommendations to protect and support vulnerable communities in Sri Lanka. However, the new beneficiary eligibility criteria and the structural benchmark have created a problematic situation among vulnerable communities. This paper investigates the challenges and drawbacks, which impacted on implementing the new reforms to strengthen the Social Safety Net in Sri Lanka. Furthermore, it intends to identify the positive measures that can be applied to mitigate the challenges to the Social Safety Net framework. This study is based on qualitative secondary data resources, namely government reports IMF and World Bank reports websites and archived research. Collected data has been analysed using the descriptive approach. Under social safety nets, a transition period is required to implement the new structural benchmarks and eligibility criteria introduced to protect vulnerable communities. And, because dealing with vulnerable communities is a sensitive matter, they can be protected and strengthened vulnerable communities by providing the necessary environment for their livelihoods and livelihoods. These measures will be a long-term approach to economically stabilize vulnerable communities and strengthen Sri Lanka's economy.

Keywords: *IMF, Post-pandemic Economy, Sri Lanka, Social Safety Nets, Vulnerable Communities*

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The Impact of Sri Lanka's Post-Pandemic Visa Policy on the Revival of its Tourism Sector

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Abstract

Tourism plays a pivotal role in the economic and development landscape of Sri Lanka serving as a significant contributor to the country's GDP. The industry was adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in adverse economic consequences. At present, the country's tourism sector is making efforts to regain its prominence. Alongside the recovery of the tourism industry, Sri Lanka has implemented several post pandemic visa policy changes. The research centers on identifying a decline in long-term tourist stays in the island-nation, a phenomenon with far reaching implications for Sri Lanka's economy even if the government announces the profitability of the new visa regulations. By examining the primary source markets for Sri Lanka's tourism in both pre and post pandemic context, this study delves into how the altered visa system has impacted the duration of tourist's visit. The study conducts a comparative analysis to compare the disparities between the duration of tourist stay in the country before and after the pandemic outbreak. This study demonstrates that the period of tourist stay has declined in the post-pandemic era. It further illustrates that the changes of visa policy in the post COVID-19 context is a significant cause for such decline. The research uses both primary and secondary data in gathering information. The objective of the study is to demonstrate how the renewed visa regulations have affected Sri Lanka's tourism, hotel sector and overall economy and presents recommendations for reforms in the renewed visa process.

Keywords: *Post-pandemic, Tourism, Sri Lanka, Visa Process*

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Achieving SDG's 2, 3 and 4 in Sri Lanka by 2030; Case Studies from Ampara, Badulla and Monaragala Districts

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Abstract

The United Nations magnify 2030 agenda which include seventeen SDG's to initiate the ground plan to reach sustainability in the future lives of human world. In consonance with the SDG's zero hunger, Good Health and Well-being and quality education in Sri Lanka addressing with the explicit focus on malnutrition and protecting child rights in the districts of Badulla, Ampara and Monaragala functioning as the pioneering areas which are suffering from highest rate of malnutrition and the violation of the child rights. One in two children in Sri Lanka going hunger and rising malnutrition among children has become forefront concern with the prevailing social and economic disrupts. To address these issues this case stand ongoing initiatives in Badulla, Monaragala and Ampara that aim to improve nutrition, healthcare and child rights. Through the study, its clearly emphasized the involvement of mentioned SDG's to enhance the status of children using the mechanisms of government, NGO's , UN and UNICEF humanitarian assistance to enhance the social environment. Attain the expected outcome of the study used both primary data such as interviews and discussions then as the secondary data sources used journals, newspapers, government reports, UN and UNICEF records, books. A balanced exploration required to understand the shape of UN framework in Sri Lanka to promote the child rights via fulfilling the basic needs surpassing the prevailing social circumstances.

Keywords: *Ampara, Badulla, Child Rights, Malnutrition, Monaragala, SDG's*

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Foreign Policy Adjustments and Sri Lanka's Tourism

Recovery in the Post-Easter Sunday Attacks

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Abstract

In response to the profound challenges posed by the Easter Sunday Attacks, this study explores the pivotal role of foreign policy adjustments in facilitating the recovery of Sri Lanka's tourism industry. After the Easter attack in 2019, Sri Lanka's tourism industry suffered a severe setback. But at the same time, we can see the local tourism industry rising as usual. This research holds significance by highlighting the pivotal role of foreign policy changes in rejuvenating a nation's tourism sector after a major crisis, providing valuable insights for academia and policymakers alike. The purpose of our research is to investigate and analyze the factors that led to the rapid recovery of the local tourism industry in Sri Lanka. Through this research, we hope to discuss the strategies employed by Sri Lanka in the field of local tourism in rebuilding the tourism industry that collapsed during the post-Easter attack period. The study is based on a qualitative method using secondary data sources. Key findings of this research include a comprehensive analysis of the foreign policy changes adopted by Sri Lanka post-Easter Sunday Attacks, the identification of their direct impact on tourism recovery, and the assessment of the overall effectiveness of these policy adjustments in rebuilding the country's tourism sector. These insights contribute to a deeper understanding of the relationship between foreign policy and crisis recovery in the tourism industry context. In the years since the Easter attacks, we can clearly see that the strategies used by Sri Lanka to attract local tourists to their tourist centers have been very successful.

Keywords: *Easter Attack, Foreign Policy, Terrorism, Tourism, Sri Lanka*

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