



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
ETHNIC STUDIES

Annual Report 2017



August 2018

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PROFILE

For 36 years the International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES) has contributed to the world of ideas and has informed policy and practice through research, dialogue, the creative arts and other interventions.

The ICES vision is contained in a desire for a world that celebrates diversity in all its multiple shades. The institution's goal is to contribute towards relevant rigorous intellectual traditions that recognise our common humanity, promote diverse identities, and generate ideas that inform and guide policies and institutions in order to promote justice, equity and peaceful coexistence. The unique mission of ICES is to deepen the understanding of ethnicity, identity politics, conflict and gender, and to foster conditions for an inclusive, just and peaceful society nationally, regionally and globally, through research, publication, dialogue, creative expression and knowledge transfer.

The ICES has been an important player in the areas of peace, justice, gender and human rights and has been particularly influential in shaping policy and the public imagination on issues of gender equality, ethnic and religious diversity, and constitutional reform in Sri Lanka. The institution has contributed to the development and promotion of minority and group rights and has previously worked closely with the United Nations' Special Rapporteurs, the several Working Groups and with the Treaty Bodies. In the past, ICES maintained a 'special category' consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC and served as the Secretariat to former UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and former Director of ICES, Radhika Coomaraswamy. In recent years ICES has carved a niche for itself as a centre for the study and promotion of diversity within a framework of democracy and human rights.

The ICES has played three broad roles: one of research, the other of policy advocacy and a third of providing space for dialogue. It has also used the creative arts to ignite the public imagination and promote truth, beauty and diversity. Following extensive academic, legal and political involvement in the constitutional and policy formulation process in Sri Lanka in the 1980s and 1990s, and strong advocacy in the areas of gender and human rights, ICES has established a strong reputation globally for its capacity to generate high quality research which is politically relevant nationally, regionally and globally. It has also provided a space for and encouraged creative expression as a vehicle for political and social change, through its support to documentary film-making, seminars for writers and regular film and art festivals. In recent years, it has generated important research on ethno-religious violence and coexistence, gender equality, women's economic empowerment and forced displacement. It has also provided a space for and encouraged creative expression as a vehicle for political and social change, through its support to documentary 'film making', socially relevant theatre, seminars for writers, and regular film and art festivals. It recently launched an online museum of 'Memory and Coexistence' (www.momac.lk).

VISION

A world which celebrates diversity anchored in the fundamental unity of the human species.

GOAL

To contribute towards relevant rigorous intellectual traditions that recognise our common humanity and promote our diverse identities, and to generate ideas that inform and guide policies and institutions in order to promote justice, equity and peaceful coexistence.

MISSION

To deepen the understanding of ethnicity, identity politics and conflict, and to foster conditions for an inclusive, just and peaceful society nationally, regionally and globally, through research, publication, dialogue, creative expression and knowledge transfer.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Promoting Rights and Justice, Diversity and Coexistence, Social Inclusion and Robust Institutions for Democracy

It is with a sense of satisfaction that I state that the dedication and commitment shown by the research staff of the Centre, has enabled us to establish an enviable reputation as one of Sri Lanka's leading independent research institutes.

Our Centre which was established in 1982, under the enlightened guidance of the late Dr Neelan Tiruchelvam and Professor Kingsley M. de Silva and came into being on the eve of a national catastrophe that engulfed our island, in the form of an outbreak of violence that was to last for almost three decades, with intermittent spells of fragile peace. This conflict was to lead to a polarization of our multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-lingual society.

Despite all the vicissitudes our country experienced, the Centre has remained steadfastly committed to its original vision and mission. We believe in a plural, inclusive society where every citizen is entitled to equal opportunities. We are committed to creating a milieu in which co-existence and religious harmony prevail; where there is gender parity. We celebrate diversity in all its multiple shades.

An immense amount of work lies ahead of us to enable us to strive towards achieving our goals. A description of the range of activities, research and publications we have engaged in at both our centres in Colombo and Kandy during 2017 is presented in this report.

I would wish to highlight some key initiatives:

- The international conference on 'Up Country Tamils: Charting a New Future'
- The conference on 'Memory, Justice and Reconciliation in Post-Conflict Societies'
- The regional conference on 'Reimagining Women's Empowerment in South Asia'
- The regional conference on 'Religion and Constitutional Practices in Asia'

In addition, the Centre generated several new publications that are documented in this report.

It would not be inappropriate to mention the political climate in which the Centre's work has been done. The Coalition Government of the two hitherto major antagonistic parties, the UNP and the SLFP, that took office in January 2015, undertook to bring about a radical transformation in our socio-political culture. Though it did bring about some significant changes, such as reducing the term of office of the Executive Presidency and reducing some of its absolute powers, it has yet to deliver on its promise to draft a new Constitution for the country. Yet, some significant gains have been achieved:

The Judiciary has been permitted to act without political intervention.

An Office on Missing Persons, with a body of reputed Commissioners with proven track records and with substantial powers of investigation and adequate funding has been established. It will be a permanent institution.

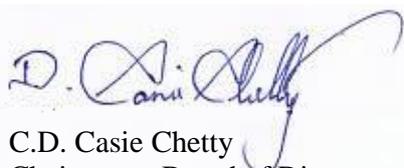
In 2016, the Government also adopted the Right to Information Act. The five independent Commissioners function under the Minister assigned the Mass Media portfolio. In terms of this Act, if a member of the public seeks information in the public interest and the public body to which the request is addressed declines to respond, the citizen has the right to appeal to a Designated Officer within the public authority, to the Commission, and thereafter to the Court of Appeal.

In March, this year, the Bill for the Protection against Enforced Disappearances was passed by Parliament without amendments. The Bill partially satisfies Sri Lanka's obligations under the UN International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (ICPPED) which it ratified in December 2015.

A further step in the right direction was the approval given recently by the Cabinet of Ministers for draft legislation to establish an Office of Reparations. It would be necessary for the Government to give the assurance that providing reparations to victims or their next-of-kin would not be a substitute for further measures.

Hopefully, the Office of Reparations would take cognizance of the fact that there have been repeated cycles of violence and disaster. The proposed Office should have a framework of transparency and inclusion. Political expediency, ethno-nationalist sentiment and lethargy should be avoided.

On this optimistic note, may I take this opportunity to thank on behalf of the members of the Board, the staff of our Centre both in Colombo and Kandy, for their dedicated service and heartfelt commitment to the goals of this institution, without whose support we would not have achieved the recognition we have obtained.



C.D. Casie Chetty
Chairman – Board of Directors
May 2018

RESEARCH

GENDER

Identifying Post-War Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women in Sri Lanka's Northern Province (*October 2014 – February 2018*)

Poverty levels among women in the Northern Province are among the highest in the country. While the government, private sector, NGOs and the diaspora have invested in initiatives to support livelihoods and economic growth, there is little rigorous evidence on what has worked.

This study supported by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation commenced in October 2014 and ended in February 2018.

This research project set out to identify the barriers that women face in entering and participating in the labour market and in engaging in livelihood activities in five districts in Sri Lanka. The districts surveyed were Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Vavuniya and Mannar in the Northern Province.

The research included qualitative and quantitative components in a critical evaluation of the livelihood interventions provided by the state, the corporate sector, donors, diaspora and non-governmental organisations.

The study sought to understand the impact of post-war recovery initiatives on women in Sri Lanka's Northern Province and to inform policy and practice to empower women emerging out of conflict.

The project generated a literature review, five qualitative and quantitative research publications along with a mapping of livelihood programmes, two video documentaries, three policy briefs, three workshops and an international conference that sought to understand barriers to women's economic empowerment and the impact of post-war development programmes. The ICES also commissioned an evaluation report during the period to assess best practices and outcomes of the research.

Five Research Papers drawing on a 4,000 plus quantitative sample and 120 in-depth interviews were published.

- 1) *Doing This and That: Self-employment and Economic Survival of Women Heads of Households in Mullaitivu* by Chulani Kodikara
- 2) *Making Ends Meet: Women's Livelihoods in Post-War Sri Lanka* by Vasuki Jeyasankar and Savini Ganhewa
- 3) *Impact of Intimate Relationships on Livelihood Activities of Women Affected by War in Northern Sri Lanka* by Iresha Lakshman

- 4) *War and Recovery: Psychosocial Challenges in Northern Sri Lanka* by Jeevasuthan Subramaniam
- 5) *Post-War Realities: Barriers to Female Economic Empowerment* by Kethaki Kandanearachchi and Rapti Ratnayake

Three Policy Briefs were developed that contained a summary of the findings of the research and were shared with policy-makers and academia. The briefs used narrative, quotes, photos and maps.

- 1) *The impact of war on women's economic empowerment in Sri Lanka*
- 2) *Women and labour force participation in the North of Sri Lanka*
- 3) *Looking back and looking ahead: post-war livelihoods interventions in Sri Lanka*

Mapping of Livelihood Programmes covering seven different categories of livelihoods was developed using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in 2014 and 2015. A second round of data collection for the five districts from the North was conducted using the same process during 2016 and 2017. Thirty-four new updated maps were developed using GIS and uploaded to ICES website in September 2017. Available at <http://ices.lk/maps-of-womens-development-projects-in-the-north/>

DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Migration and Collectives/Networks as Pathways Out of Poverty? Gendered Vulnerabilities and Capabilities amongst Poor Fishing Communities in Asia (2016 – 2019)

This three-year comparative study intends to improve our understanding of whether migration is a potential route out of poverty for women and men in fishing communities in Cambodia, Sri Lanka and India. It will identify disabling (vulnerabilities) and enabling (capabilities) conditions, leading households to stay in or exit out of poverty.

The research aims to generate an innovative, gendered analysis of economic, social and subjective dimensions of poverty and wellbeing in fishing communities resulting from internal and external migration. The study includes assessing responses to a range of environmental (resource depletion, seasonality, natural disasters, climate variability) and political-economic (market, state, conflict) changes. The role of social networks and collective action, informal and formal, or indeed the absence of these, in advocating for supportive policies for migrant workers and their communities, reducing risks, violence and conflicts, and enabling them to move into more secure livelihoods will be assessed. Whether current national policies relating to gender, fisheries and migration are adequate in addressing issues of migrant households in fishing communities will also be determined. The ICES is responsible for the Sri Lankan component of the three-country study, led by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).

ICES is collaborating with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Thailand, University of East Anglia (UEA) in UK, the Cambodia Institute for Research and Development (CIRD) in Cambodia, and the Fisheries Management Resource Centre (FishMarc) in India, as well as grassroots organisations working with fishing communities in Sri Lanka, on this project.

In 2017, two district-level Stakeholder Workshops were held in Mundel, Puttalam and in Kuchchaveli, Trincomalee in January and March respectively, prior to the beginning of fieldwork in the two districts. District-level fisheries officers, divisional-level government officers, representatives of fisheries societies and local community organisations working on development and women's issues participated. District-level fisheries officers and Grama Niladharis (village administrative officers) of the four study communities were also interviewed during the qualitative fieldwork phase between February-August 2017.

After revising the research instruments based on the comments provided by the ethical review panel comprising of both Sri Lankan and international scholars from different academic backgrounds, the quantitative and qualitative tools were piloted and the quantitative survey was completed in April 2017.

The qualitative data collection was conducted in two phases in the Puttalam and Trincomalee districts and completed in September 2017.

Both the quantitative and qualitative teams worked on data cleaning, coding and entry, during the course of 2017.

Building Peace and Governance through Participation of Women with Disabilities in Sri Lanka (*November 2015 – November 2017*)

The project sought to encourage women with and without disabilities to actively participate in decision-making in relation to Sri Lanka's peace and reconciliation processes. It was implemented by ICES in partnership with Handicap International (now Humanity & Inclusion) and the Women's Development Centre, Kandy and aimed to pursue its goal by achieving three specific objectives.

The project looked at the barriers to the participation of women with and without disabilities in post-war development and reconciliation processes; and aimed to promote the inclusion of women with disabilities especially through capacity-building and awareness-raising at the community level in the districts of Kilinochchi and Kandy.

The project also attempted to assess the status of Sri Lanka's commitment to the United Nation's Security Council Resolution 1325 and used evidence from a qualitative study to inform stakeholders about the grassroots realities of women's participation in post-war recovery processes.

ICES prepared a Shadow Report on 'Sri Lanka: Women Living with Disabilities', conducted Collective Sense-Making Workshops in Kilinochchi and Kandy, presented a paper titled 'North-South perspectives of women with disabilities on the state's attitude to services and social protection and the implications for reconciliation' at the conference on 'Questions of Memory, Justice and Reconciliation in Societies Post-Conflict', and held a roundtable discussion and a Media Sensitization Workshop.

Study on Domestic Work

Although there has been research on Sri Lankan migrant domestic workers, the situation of domestic workers within Sri Lanka is virtually untouched. In the context of the UN Domestic Workers Convention (2011) and the increasing signatories to it, ICES has begun exploratory work to better understand the issue of domestic work in Sri Lanka. Preliminary research is being conducted on newspaper advertisements offering and requesting the services of diverse types of domestic workers. Two surveys will follow, one addressing employers and another addressing domestic workers themselves to understand employment relations and conditions from both perspectives.

JUSTICE, MEMORY AND RECONCILIATION

Fostering Pluralistic Memories and Collective Resilience in Fragile Transitional Justice Processes

(April 2014 – March 2020)

In the aftermath of protracted civil conflicts, as in Sri Lanka's case, truth and reconciliation processes have come to be accepted as the normal process forward to foster public rituals of truth telling. There is growing academic evidence internationally that post-conflict truth and reconciliation processes and the sharing of collective memories has had significant value in bringing about reconciliation between communities, strengthening democracy in the civic sphere, consolidating a lasting peace between peoples and providing a space for healing after the trauma of conflict.

The Pluralistic Memories Project (PMP) is a partnership between the University of Lausanne and the ICES. The PMP is a broad-spectrum study that hopes to elicit the views, opinions and memories from all Sri Lankan ethnic communities on the recent decades of armed conflict and the post-conflict period. It is being simultaneously piloted in three countries: Burundi, Israeli-Palestine and Sri Lanka.

It is recognised that none of these societies provide ideal conditions for the working out of classic truth and reconciliation processes. Therefore, the research and intervention programme of the project are geared to create a space for pluralistic discussions of the memories of war as well as to provide a safe space for those who share these memories. It is envisaged that these interventions will facilitate spill-over effects that will lead to community healing through the sharing of memories and the first steps to encouraging positive critical social change.

The PMP uses a mixed-methods research design that includes ethnographic methods of observation and purposive sampling as well as a representative longitudinal survey. Research data collected will be assessed and disseminated for feedback through local community interventions and media dialogues. It will use testimonies, life histories and surveys to explore the pluralistic memories that people hold both privately and publicly, pertaining to different aspects of inter-group violence such as inter-group helping, inclusive victimhood, and solidarity. The project explores the possibility of using these memories in later interventions to see if they can be used to promote support for reconciliation.

The Project is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation under the auspices of the Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development and is coordinated by a research group based at University of Lausanne in Switzerland.

The key achievements for the year 2017 included the hosting of the first project conference in Colombo and the implementation of the archive project. The first wave of the national survey was conducted by the Kandy Consulting Group (KCG) under the supervision of PhD student Sumedha Jayakody. The comprehensive survey captured responses of participants from all over Sri Lanka belonging to all ethnic and religious categories. The survey adopted a stratified network sampling strategy while it focused on attitudes towards transitional justice processes, victim beliefs, war exposure and experience, and identity.

Sumedha Jayakody and Esther Surenthiraraj continued their research work on their respective theses during 2017.

COEXISTENCE AND RELIGIOUS CONFLICT

Building Resilient Communities (2013 – 2017)

This research project was a response to new forms of conflicts emerging in post-war Sri Lanka. The ending of the war was seen by many as a paradigm-shifting moment in the country's history. But almost ten years since the end of the war Sri Lanka remains a troubled nation. New forms of conflict were emerging along with new majority-minority configurations. Ethnicity had gradually been replaced with religion as the core of new conflicts. Extremist Sinhala-Buddhist organisations, initially a Colombo-based urban phenomenon, had spread the Sinhala-Muslim conflict with alarming rapidity to other parts of the country and had taken on a national dimension. These organisations had been able to garner large scale intra- and inter-class support for their activities and their emergence and the rapid growth suggested that there was a complex underlying dynamic at play. The focus of this project was on Buddhist-Muslim relations in the post-war context.

The project attempted to understand emerging complexities of Buddhist-Muslim conflicts through action-research and dialogues that sought to strengthen the capacities of local communities to respond to violent conflict. For the dialogues, the project used intermediary tools such as comics and audio-visual media in two districts: Ampara and Galle. These districts represent multi-ethnic and multi-religious communities and had witnessed recent violent confrontations.

The project commenced with mono-religious 'context mapping workshops' in Colombo, Galle and Ampara with Buddhists and Muslims to map the grievances of grassroots communities in relation to the conflict. The first part of the project sought to understand the rise in Sinhala nationalism in post-war Sri Lanka and the evolving Muslim identities through research. The second part of the project focused on the emerging Buddhist-Muslim conflict in Sri Lanka in two districts, Ampara and Galle, and sought to create a space for dialogue through the innovative use of grassroots video, comic and cartoon productions which aimed to promote civic dialogue at a basic level where ordinary people talk to each other across ethnic, religious and linguistic divides through a variety of stories.

The outcomes of the project included:

- 1) Five research papers on understanding inter- and intra-religious conflicts which explore the rise in religious radicalism and intra-religious relations among the Sinhala and Muslim communities in post-war Sri Lanka.
- 2) Producing a research-based documentary film
- 3) Training of grassroots communities on comics & documentary films
- 4) Reflective dialogues among policy/decision-makers, district level/ministerial level government officials and provincial school administration.
- 5) An international conference on 'Religion and Constitutional Practices in Asia'

Promoting Human Rights, Inclusion and Religious Harmony in Sri Lanka and Beyond: Equipping Communities to Resist Violent Conflict (2016 – 2019)

ICES is partnering with Equitas (the Centre for Human Rights Education in Montreal) to promote human rights, inclusion and religious harmony in Sri Lanka and Myanmar. Through research, forums and capacity-building activities, ICES and Equitas will work to promote increased religious harmony, respect for human rights and inclusion while mitigating the risk of religious conflict in Sri Lanka: principally in five districts: Colombo, Ampara, Galle, Jaffna and Mannar. The project will also seek to share lessons learned and increase the capacity of key actors in Myanmar.

The project will aim to generate the following results:

- Improved mitigation strategies, particularly inter-faith dialogue and early warning systems, for addressing inter-religious conflict among communities in Colombo, Ampara, Galle, Jaffna and Mannar
- Increased capacity of community leaders and educators to conduct human rights education activities in select communities in Sri Lanka
- Increased capacity of community leaders and civil society organisations in Myanmar to promote religious harmony and reduce conflict based on religion and ethnicity

The ICES is leading the conflict mapping and the research in Sri Lanka and Myanmar. The ICES commenced a gender sensitive mapping of inter-religious relations and tensions in four districts in Sri Lanka in January 2017. The mapping was intended to add to the existing body of ICES' research on inter-religious relations and inform the design of capacity-building workshops on Human Rights Education for Children and Conflict Mitigation Strategies for Human Rights Workers. Conceptualisation and design of research tools was completed by February 2017 and data collection completed by July 2017. A first draft of the report was released in December 2017.

Outcomes of the project included a forum on 'Promoting Human Rights, Inclusion and Religious Harmony', a capacity-building workshop, two community-actions workshops, and two research papers.

RIGHTS AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Realizing Rights and Reconciling After Conflict

(February 2016 – December 2018)

This is a series of inter-related initiatives, undertaken by ICES that intend to seize the opportunities afforded by the new political regime to engage in initiatives that promote reconciliation, human rights, accountable governance and the rule of law.

The research component of the initiative seeks to generate a body of knowledge that enhances understanding about dealing with the past, institutional reform and the challenges in promoting diversity and pluralism in Sri Lanka and how these might be overcome. The research also looked at how excluded communities could participate in and contribute to national development and reconciliation. Through this research ICES has sought to generate alternative perspectives and to create a platform for a critical discussion on post-war developments and reconciliation policies, processes and practices.

CONFERENCES

Up-Country Tamils: Charting a New Future

2-3 August 2017: ICES Colombo

Since the British period, the Up-country Tamils have lived at the margins of Sri Lankan society and politics, while being an integral part of the import-export economy that came to be established in the country. Since the end of the war in May 2009, most political and academic debate and discussion about ethnic reconciliation have centred on a simplistic Sinhala-Tamil binary, ignoring other ethnic groups and the multiplicity of Tamil identities on the island.

Up-country Tamils have always held a precarious position in Sri Lankan society, politics and economics, and this conference examined the vicissitudes of their status in relation to other ethnic communities on the island and to India.

The conference looked at the ways in which the Up-country Tamils continue to be marginalised, how far they have entered the mainstream and the difficulties that they have faced along the way. It was the first major meeting on the subject in several years and attracted interest, not just from the Up-country Tamil community, but from several other stakeholders as well. The conference brought together scholars of Up-Country Tamils in Sri Lanka, including historians, economists, sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists and social activists to examine this community from multiple disciplinary perspectives.

The conference addressed several of the problems that Up-country Tamils face today politically, economically and socially as well as the historical origins and precedents for their current predicament. Presentations were made on the themes of politics and governance, Up-country economics, land rights and environmental issues, migration, urbanisation, domestic workers and culture and society. The conference highlighted the following:

- The importance for a consensus among the Up-country community on a distinct national identity (reconciling different articulations of this identity) and the need for the community to be recognised as an important ethnic group by the state.
- The need for reform in policies related to the management of plantations, ownership of land and laws which legitimise the exclusion of the Up-country community.
- The need for further research on the transformation of the dynamics of this community due to mechanisation and migration.

ICES is currently editing and compiling a few selected papers into an edited volume.

Questions of Memory, Justice and Reconciliation in Societies Post-Conflict

13-14 September 2017: ICES Colombo

The Pluralistic Memories Project of the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, together with the International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES), Sri Lanka, hosted a conference on *'Questions of Memory, Justice and Reconciliation in Societies Post-Conflict'* from 13-14 September 2017. The conference was preceded by two days of pre-conference workshops from 11-12 September 2017 focusing on issues in research methodology. The workshops were open, free of charge, to both local academics as well as the students on the PMP from Switzerland, Palestine, Burundi and Sri Lanka.

Professor Emeritus Jayadeva Uyangoda and Professor Susan Harris Rimmer from Griffith University, Australia gave keynote addresses on the two days of the conference. Over 15 papers by both local and foreign scholars and practitioners were presented at the conference covering topics on memory and expression of memory, the Sri Lankan transitional justice process, the post-war climate, and memory and identity. It ended with a roundtable discussion where prominent local academics and activists participated.

Reimagining Women's Empowerment in South Asia: Pathways and Policies to Achieving Gender Equality

9-10 October 2017: Colombo

The ICES-organised international conference was held in Colombo in partnership with the Urban Institute (UI) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

The conference included a pre-conference workshop at the ICES on the 9 October for 'internal learning' among GrOW (Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women) researchers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka and a 'outward' policy focused conference in Colombo on the 10 October, for mid- and high-level policy-makers from the region and Sri Lanka, together with the GrOW grantees.

The event included a moderated dialogue on why women's empowerment is critical for both economic development and social justice along with an expert roundtable on key emerging lessons from research on enablers of and barriers to women's economic empowerment in South Asia. It culminated in a country-specific working session led by researchers from each country team, to generate specific action items for realizing the GrOW agenda for each country.

Seventy-six invitees participated at the international conference with 30 of the participants coming from abroad, which included 18 GrOW grantees and 12 policy-makers from the region, UK, Germany, USA and Canada. The balance 46 consisted of government ministers, parliamentarians, high commissioners or their representatives (Canadian, UK & Germany), World Bank, ADB, United Nations, academics, and representatives from think tanks, NGOs, civil society organisations, television channels and newspapers along with ICES staff.

The event received significant publicity and was reviewed positively in the media and in a post-conference assessment.

Religion and Constitutional Practices in Asia

9-10 November 2017: ICES Colombo

A conference on ‘Religion and Constitutional Practices in Asia’ – organised by the Centre for Asian Legal Studies (CALs) at the National University of Singapore and the International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES), Sri Lanka, with support from Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, the Ford Foundation, and USAID – was held on 9 & 10 November 2017 at ICES in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The ways in which religion interacts with and influences law and policy-making have become a topic of growing significance. They raise questions, among others, about managing legal and religious pluralism; on how religion is utilised as a tool for social and political mobilisation; and on how different countries approach state-citizen relations in matters involving religion. This conference, ‘Religion and Constitutional Practices in Asia’, brought together a group of seasoned and emerging scholars from a variety of jurisdictions to examine how religion informs constitutional practice and development in 12 Asian countries, each with different constitutional arrangements on religion.

The conference attracted over 50 local and international participants, in addition to 20 presenters and discussants. Some of the topics discussed include: the relationship between religious and secular authorities in a state; the operation of religious personal laws; and the importance of social and political contexts in assessing the impact of constitutional recognition (and non-recognition) of religion.

A special roundtable discussion featuring Professor Andrew Harding (Professor of Law, NUS Faculty of Law), Professor Radhika Coomaraswamy (Emeritus Fellow at ICES and Member of the Constitutional Council of Sri Lanka), and Dr Asanga Welikala (Director of the Edinburgh Centre for Constitutional Law) was held on the last day of the conference, followed by a book launch of two recently-published monographs by Associate Professor Benjamin Schonthal (University of Otago) and Dr Dian A. H. Shah (NUS) investigating the relationship between religion, constitutional law, and politics in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Malaysia respectively.

WORKSHOPS

Three Policy Workshops

The ICES conducted three policy forums with exhibitions in the districts of Ampara, Trincomalee and Galle on the 20th and 22th of November 2017 and 15 February 2018 respectively under the research project ‘Identifying Post-War Economic Growth and Employment Opportunities for Women in Sri Lanka’s Northern Province’. The policy forums aimed at promoting dialogue between policy-makers, researchers and practitioners to identify ways to enable women’s empowerment in the district while encouraging new ideas into the policy-making process to influence better practices. Invitees included government and elected officials, academics, UN, NGO, CBO officers, media and members of the public.

A screening of video documentaries and an exhibition of 100 photographs from the GrOW photo collection and 24 mounted photos of women’s livelihoods in the North were held at the venues.

- **Ampara Workshop**

20 November 2017

The workshop was held at the auditorium of Faculty of Islamic and Arabic Studies of South-Eastern University of Sri Lanka and was attended by 37 participants comprising of lecturers, students, government officers, civil society representatives and media.

- **Trincomalee Workshop**

22 November 2017

The workshop was attended by 42 participants including academics, government officers, NGO officers, civil society representatives, community leaders and media.

- **Galle Workshop**

15 February 2018

The workshop was attended by 34 academics, government officers (including divisional women’s development coordination officers and women and children’s desk police officers), NGOs, civil society representatives, community and media.

Media Sensitization on Women, Disability and Inclusion

28 November 2017: ICES Colombo

A Media Sensitization Workshop under the research project ‘Building Peace and Governance through Participation of Women with Disabilities in Sri Lanka’ was held with journalists on 28 November 2017 to raise their awareness on the challenges faced by persons with disabilities and to discuss ways in which the concerns of persons with disabilities could be taken up by the media in an appropriate manner that respect their rights and dignity.

This workshop was organised complying with the concept of the Human Library. The Human Library is an international organisation and movement that first started in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2000. It aims to address people's prejudices by helping them to talk to those they would not normally meet. The workshop was facilitated by Chintha J. Munasinghe and Asoka Dias with four Women Disability Advocates from the Kilinochchi and Kandy districts.

Twelve journalists, a photographer and a cartoonist participated in the workshop. The participants by the media agencies were seven from *Sinhala Newspapers*, four from *Tamil Newspapers*, one from *English Newspapers* and a member of Presidents' Media Team.

The key presentation on 'Responsible Journalism: Are We Missing Anything?' was done by Mr Asoka Dias, the Director – Studios/Maharaja Broadcasting who has more than 30 years of experience in the field of print and electronic media.

The introduction to life stories of four women disability advocates—Vetrichelvi, Priya, Nisha and Rohini—who participated at the workshop was presented by Chintha Munasinghe.

Small-group discussions were held with the participation of disability advocates and the journalists.

Collective Sense-Making Workshops

19 & 23 May 2017

ICES conducted Collective Sense-making Workshops in Kandy (on 19 May) and Kilinochchi (on 23 May) in 2017. The aim of the workshops was to provide an opportunity for key stakeholders such as women with disabilities and women's forum leaders to undertake their own analysis of the information gathered during the qualitative research process and to validate the research findings of the qualitative research. It also enabled women leaders and project participants to collectively make sense of the data, prioritise concerns and dialogue on how to act on the knowledge gained. The participants shortlisted the issues of priority to the community stemming from the research findings and ICES facilitated the translations of these concerns into short documents which were handed over to the women to use for their future advocacy.

Following the two workshops, two District Roundtable forums were held in Kilinochchi (on 25 July) and Kandy (on 12 September) respectively. Among the participants were the directors of social services, District Social Services officers, Women's Development officers and Economic Development officers.

The roundtable forums were an opportunity for grassroots level women's networks and women living with disabilities to meet and discuss issues and constraints they experience when accessing government services and programmes. It was also a platform for government officials to respond, clarify and explain challenges and constraints pertaining to resource allocation, limitations in bureaucratic processes and human resource capacities within the government structures.

Promoting Human Rights, Inclusion and Religious Harmony*11 February 2017*

A forum on ‘Promoting Human Rights, Inclusion and Religious Harmony’ was held in Jaffna on 11 February 2017. The objectives of this Forum was to have participants discuss the relevance of the research study ‘The Chronic and the Acute: Post-War Religious Violence in Sri Lanka’ to their context, identify effective strategies for promoting human rights, inclusion, and religious harmony stemming from their practice and to explore networking opportunities. The one-day forum was attended by 32 participants who represented religious leaders, civil society organisations, journalists, government officers and volunteers.

Capacity-Building and Community-Actions Workshops

One capacity-building workshop and two community-actions workshops were carried out under the ‘Promoting Human Rights, Inclusion and Religious Harmony in Sri Lanka and Beyond: Equipping Communities to Resist Violent Conflict’ project in Galle and Colombo districts on using the ‘Play it Fair’ toolkit for the teacher trainers, civil society members and teachers of selected Sunday schools in 2017.

Human Rights Education for Children and ‘Play it Fair’*27-29 July 2017*

The three-day capacity-building programme on ‘Human Rights Education for Children and Play it Fair’ was held in Colombo from 27 to 29 July 2017 with the participation of the In-Service Advisors of the Zonal Education Offices of Teldeniya, Akkaraipathu, Jaffna, Elpitiya and Colombo and representatives from civil society. Twenty-eight participants attended the workshop of which 38 per cent were females. The workshop focused on training the teacher trainers and the civil society members on using the ‘Play it Fair’ toolkit in teaching human rights for children through games. The teachers submitted their individual plans, and on a follow-up on the learning transfer plans, it was observed that the Teacher Trainers have effectively used their learning in the capacity-building programmes for children and teachers.

Training of Trainers: Galle District*29-30 September 2017*

Under the Community-Actions programme a Training of Trainers Workshop was held in the Karadeniya DS Division in the Galle District on 29 to 30 September 2017 for the teachers of the select Sunday schools. Thirty-one teachers representing six Buddhist Sunday schools and one Hindu Sunday school participated in the training. The objective of the two-day training programme was to train the teachers of Sunday schools to use the ‘Play it Fair’ toolkit at the Sunday schools and make children aware on the human values and the need to respect each other, to cooperate with each other and to work together for promoting religious harmony in the area. The teachers subsequently carried out the activities in the ‘Play it Fair’ toolkit at Sunday schools

and were able to reach approximately 462 children (201 male and 261 female) within a span of two to three months.

Training of Trainers: Colombo District

11 November 2017

Under the Community-Actions programme a Training of Trainers programme was held in Colombo on 11 November 2017 for the teachers of the select Sunday schools. Twenty-one teachers representing five Buddhist Sunday schools and one Hindu Sunday school, one Muslim and two Christian Sunday schools participated for the training. The teachers subsequently carried out the activities in the Play it Fair toolkit at Sunday schools and were able to reach approximately 398 children within a span of two to three months ending in early February 2018. During the period teachers have disseminated the knowledge learnt among the fellow teachers at the Sunday schools.

ART AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Both in times of peace and in times of war, arts, culture and media are vital in creating and nurturing a vibrant and engaged civil society through the promotion and celebration of truth, beauty, diversity and imagination. The ICES contributed to create this space through different platforms such as film and literary festivals, art exhibitions, discussions, performances and workshops/conferences.

Panel Discussion on Ceylon Kaffirs and Performance of *Manja*

18 February 2017

With a view to promoting ethnic cohesion and celebrating diversity, ICES hosted a workshop and performance on 18 February 2017 to raise awareness on the ‘Ceylon Kaffirs’. Ceylon Kaffirs are an ethnic group of African origin who are the descendants of slaves brought to Sri Lanka by the Portuguese in the 16th century. The event provided a lesser-known Ceylon Kaffir group from the coastal region of Kalpitiya an opportunity to share their experiences and music, while engaging with scholars.

The dialogue included panelists Dr Lionel Mandy (*California State University, Long Beach*), Dr Hugo Cardoso (*University of Lisbon*), Ms Nirosha Kulasekara (*University of Colombo*) and a representative from the Sri Lankan Kaffirs, who discussed issues related to the identity, culture, history and politics of the Sri Lankan Kaffirs. This was followed by a performance of *manja* by the group of Kaffirs from Kalpitiya.

Study on Artisans and State Protection

The tourism industry has begun to flourish since the end of the war and is now the third highest revenue earner. Craft artisans, another marginalised community, are crucial to Sri Lanka’s tourism economy but their working arrangements are extremely precarious. ICES is working on a study that maps these structural conflicts between state bodies and documents the effects of these conflicts on the crafts community. It draws from the experiences of the artists’ resident in Kalapuraya, Kandy. The case studies will also document in brief the alternative mechanisms the crafts community has turned to for sales, welfare, and knowledge transmission.

Museum of Memory and Coexistence

In post-conflict and post-war settings, museums can play an important role in national reconciliation and healing as they have the potential to unleash processes of self-reflection and learning that go beyond other interventions. By combining images with text and digital tools with installations, theatre, music, and possibly the culinary arts, they are easily accessible, appeal to a wide section of society, and can trigger a broad range of emotional and intellectual responses, both spontaneous and long-term.

Recognising the potential of museums as sites of interaction between personal and collective identities, between memory and history and their ability to instruct and help people engage with a variety of human experiences, the ICES designed a digital, physical and mobile museum derived from its research and public engagement.

The ICES 'Museum of Memory and Coexistence' (www.momac.lk) will be an online space to explore social and political issues through diverse art forms and narratives. The museum will celebrate diversity, coexistence, resilience and solidarity, while archiving suffering, loss, victimisation and personal trauma.

The ICES has drawn on the experiences of vulnerable and victim communities, including persons living with disabilities, women-headed households, ex-combatants and other similar groups, in generating material for this museum. Through this ICES will facilitate participation and involvement of communities leading to empowerment and respect for diversity and pluralism in Sri Lanka.

The pilot site comprising five exhibits was launched in February 2018. This included the outlining of specific exhibits based on work already available through ICES:

- *Mother North Rising* consists of several photo essays documenting the lives and daily struggles of women in the North.
- *On the Mirror of the Other* uses videos created by amateur videographers to creatively explore issues of inter-ethnic and inter-religious coexistence in Sri Lanka
- *Picturing Coexistence* uses comics to depict and discuss everyday instances of religious tension and conflict, to explore resolutions and to respond to simple misunderstandings.
- *Sangeetham* uses music and sung poetry resistive art form, on issues of labour, gender, ethnicity, and coexistence.
- *Home & Beyond* uses dramatised audio clips of personal narratives written by those who have strong memories of loss during conflict.

ICES will also archive testimonies collected by Professor H.S. Hasbullah during the expulsion of Muslims from the Northern Province in 1990. These were stored in ledgers at the ICES office to be selected and archived. 100 testimonies will be archived as a first step.

DOCUMENTARIES

Two Video Documentaries

Two documentaries on women's economic empowerment were completed in English, Sinhala and Tamil and uploaded to the ICES website. One hundred and fifty high quality still photographs were also made available on the ICES site.

- ***Rising Voices: The Women of the North*** by Natalie Soysa
Available at <http://ices.lk/video-gallery/rising-voices-the-women-of-the-north-english-sinhala-tamil/>
The documentary explores the personal stories of a number of women who experienced the war and its aftermath, and how they manage various sociocultural and economic issues at different levels.
- ***Her Palmyra Basket*** by Kaushlaya Pathirana
Available at <http://ices.lk/video-gallery/her-palmyra-basket-english-sinhala-tamil/>
The short documentary explores the livelihoods interventions conducted for women's economic empowerment in the North after the end of the war from the perspectives of beneficiaries, researchers and practitioners for improving policy and programming.

The Hybrid God: Khorasan Ismail Wathhimi Bandara by Kaushlaya Pathirana

A documentary film on religious syncretism in Sri Lanka

The 'Galebandara' Shrine in Kurunegala has attracted devotees from different faiths for many years. It has become a common ground for many communities, with each community interpreting the legend in unique ways.

In this 30-minute documentary, film-maker Kaushalya Pathirana, explores some of the religious syncretism of this shrine. The film looks at the different legends and quasi-historical tales surrounding the origin of Galebandara, the living practices around the shrine and its implications for religious harmony and conflict in Sri Lanka. The documentary draws from the ICES research paper 'Religious Interface and Contestations between Buddhists and Muslims in Sri Lanka' by Tudor Silva, Afrah Niwas and W. M. K. B. Wickramasinghe published in 2016.

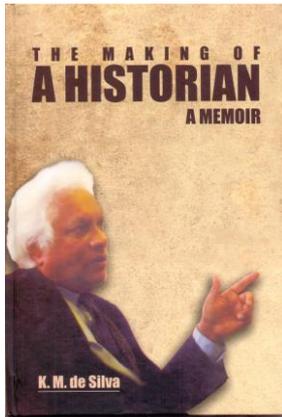
Life and Work of Kumari Jayawardena

ICES commissioned a documentary film on the life and work of Kumari Jayawardena. Kumari Jayawardena as a leading public intellectual has creatively combined scholarship with social and political action and institution building. Her book 'Feminism and Nationalism in the Third World', is one of the texts for many courses on feminism and women's studies. Her later book 'Nobodies to Somebodies' is an important account of the rise of Sri Lanka's social elites. Kumari also contributed to the emergence of two important institutions: the Institute for Workers' Education in the University of Colombo and the Social Scientists' Association. Through a series of conversations with Kumari, and intellectuals such as Jayadeva Uyangoda, Radhika Coomaraswamy, Pradeep Jeganathan, Neloufer de Mel, Kumudini Samuel, Ramani Muttetuwegama, and Romila Thapar, the film provides an insight into Kumari's life, the people who inspired her, and the political and social circumstances that led to her remarkable career.

PUBLICATIONS

The ICES has published almost 160 books, monographs and reports, which make it an important source of information on contemporary ideas. This also includes monographs and reports of workshops the ICES has conducted on human rights, religion, anthropology, politics, women's studies, sociology, judiciary in plural societies, education and ethnicity, and periodicals, research papers, working papers and lectures.

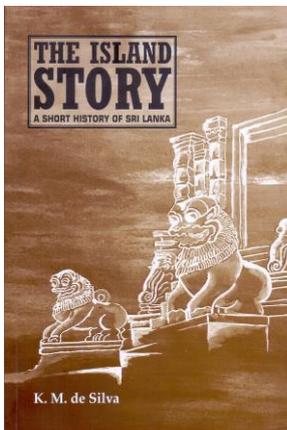
BOOKS



The Making of a Historian: A Memoir

K.M. de Silva: 2017 (132+xiv pp)

The first volume of K. M. de Silva's memoirs covers the period from his growing up in Peradeniya, schooling and higher education in Kandy to his retirement from University of Peradeniya where he served as Professor of Modern Sri Lankan History for many years and the International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES) where he was a key founder from its inception. Planning to write this book, he says that he was compelled to make a choice between writing an autobiography or a memoir and realised that he had much more for a memoir whether as an active participant in the affairs of the University of Ceylon as one among a group of university teachers intent on saving as much of the founder of the university Sir Ivor Jennings's legacy as possible or as an observer, very much a man from the periphery, in the political affairs of the island.



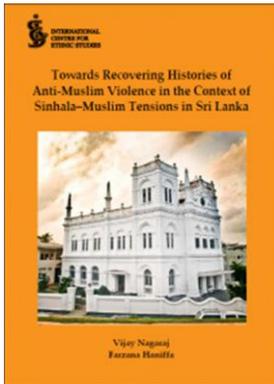
The Island Story: A Short History of Sri Lanka

K.M. de Silva: 2017 (150+xiv pp)

This very readable, solidly-researched short history of the island by the author of the standard history of Sri Lanka (published in 1980) fills a huge gap in the historical works on the island available in bookshops and libraries for students and general readers quite apart from the enthusiasts for histories of the island.

The last short histories of the island were published in the 1960s, over sixty years ago, which makes this present study welcome for students and the general reader alike.

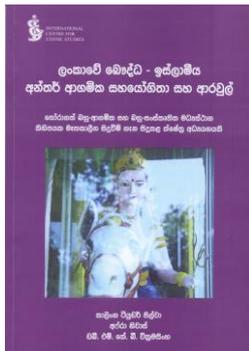
ICES RESEARCH PAPERS



Towards Recovering Histories of Anti-Muslim Violence in the Context of Sinhala Muslim Tensions in Sri Lanka

by Vijay Nagaraj & Farzana Haniffa

This research paper explores three incidents of Anti-Muslim violence in Sri Lanka - Puttalam in 1976, Galle in 1982 and Mawanella in 2001. This paper seeks to cast light on anti-Muslim violence over the past three to four decades outside of the north and east, episodes that have been masked, lost or suppressed in the commonly narrated recent histories of political and religious violence in Sri Lanka. The distinct experience of political and ethnic violence experienced by the Muslims in the context of Sinhala-Muslim tensions requires greater empirical attention and theorizing than it has received. This paper is posited as a step towards addressing this lacuna. This research is also motivated by the possibility that a deeper understanding of the temporal, spatial, political economic and social dynamics of anti-Muslim violence can illuminate the broader conditions that generate and reproduce communal violence more generally.

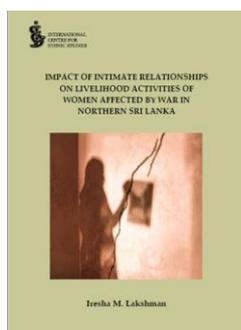


Religious Interface and Contestations Between Buddhists and Muslims in Sri Lanka (in Sinhala)

by Kalinga Tudor Silva, Afrah and W.M.K.B. Wickramasinghe

This study examines the claim made by researchers that there is a shift in conflict dynamics in post-war Sri Lanka from ethnic hostilities to largely religiously inspired hostilities due to the rise of BBS and aggressive Muslim reform movements.

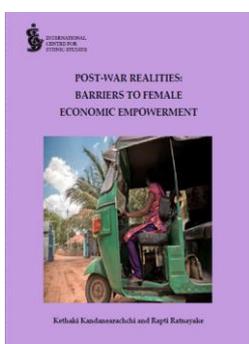
The study focuses on three religious sites with a multi-religious heritage in central Sri Lanka which do not provide evidence for an unambiguously religious turn in social conflict in Sri Lanka in the post-war era. The religious sites studied with a history of multi-religious engagement between Buddhism and Islam have potential for promoting conflict as well as solidarity. The current situation in these three sites do not indicate a major rupture in terms of inter-religious relations. The study concludes that while these sites have become entangled with externally driven campaigns for religious purification that can certainly contribute to both inter-religious and intra-religious tension, it is difficult to argue that what we have witnessed is an irreversible change in the nature of social tension in Sri Lanka.



Impact of Intimate Relationships on Livelihood Activities of Women Affected by War in Northern Sri Lanka

by Iresha M. Lakshman

The study explored the impact of intimate relationships on women's livelihoods in a post-war context. It looks at how gender norms, beliefs, and practices; marriage, and termination of an intimate relationship, impact on women's livelihoods. Intimate relationships form an integral part of a persons' social capital that plays a significant role in livelihood opportunities. The analysis was based on 30 in-depth interviews with women in female- and male-headed households throughout the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. Gender norms, beliefs, and practices in the region expect a woman to be cared for and protected by a husband or a male figure such as father or brother. Seeking livelihoods and managing independently in society has been neither easy nor expected of women; a situation particularly challenging for the widowed and the separated.



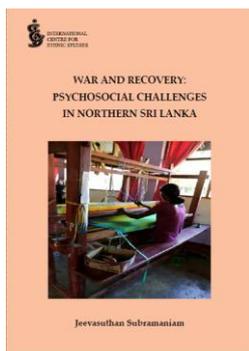
Post-War Realities: Barriers to Female Economic Empowerment

by Kethaki Kandanearachchi & Rapti Ratnayake

The paper examines the main barriers to economic empowerment experienced by female-headed households in the north of Sri Lanka. The theoretical approach adopted broadly examines these barriers on both an individual and structural level. By doing so, this paper questions the extent to which the economic choices of women are restricted by the structural constraints imposed by society and its institutions.

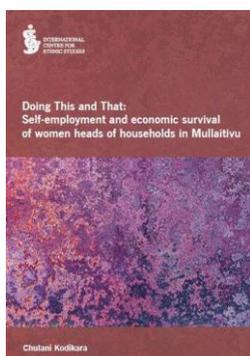
It is divided into three parts. Part I briefly examines Sri Lanka's history and conceptualises female economic empowerment. Part II presents the methodology and theoretical framework used to gather data for the study. Part III presents the findings and analysis gathered from the interviews. Part III is divided into four main sections: Part A begins by questioning whether the war triggered or exacerbated the economic pressure facing women in the north. Parts B and C examine the barriers to female economic empowerment on a structural level and an individual level, and Part D looks at the opportunities found within the interviews.

The paper argues that the economic gender gap present in female-headed households is more often a result of deep-rooted socio-economic constraints, rather than restrictions found inherent to the choices of the woman. To be relevant to the realities of female-headed households, post-conflict development programmes must question gender and how it intersects with other aspects of social stratification such as class, religion, ethnicity, caste, and disability.



War and Recovery: Psychosocial Challenges in Northern Sri Lanka by Jeevasuthan Subramaniam

The proliferation of women heads of households has been one of the significant challenges created by armed conflict in many parts of the world. It has been estimated that more than one hundred thousand war-affected women have been registered with governmental and non-governmental organizations to obtain support in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka (UN 2015). Against this backdrop, the study explores the psycho-social challenges faced by women heads of households during war and in a post-war context with the objectives of identifying the initiatives adopted by them and investigating the changes which have taken place in their lives and the sustainability of these attempts.



Doing This and That: Self-employment and Economic Survival of Women Heads of Households in Mullaitivu

by Chulani Kodikara

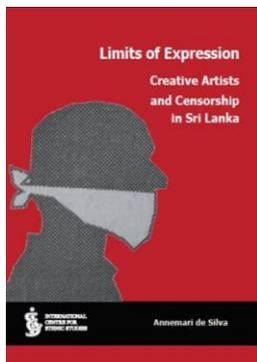
In post-war Sri Lanka, small, medium and micro (SME) enterprise development is the dominant approach to livelihood development for war-affected women, and particularly for women heads of households. Yet not every woman who is a recipient of SME support becomes an entrepreneur running an enterprise or even a micro enterprise. Although many of the women continued to receive or were eligible for state social welfare payments such as Samurdhi and the Public Assistance Monthly Allowance (PAMA), these were woefully inadequate. Women coped and survived in spite of the failure of these self-employment ventures due to handouts from charitable institutions and family, even though these were ad hoc, episodic and unreliable. Based on these findings, livelihoods in post-war Sri Lanka have to be located, analysed and addressed within the broader politics of post-war development and reconstruction, and as a question of economic justice beyond a market-based approach to economic empowerment.



Making Ends Meet: Women's Livelihoods in Post-War Sri Lanka

by Vasuki Jayasankar and Savini Ganhewa

This paper discusses forms of structural inequality and gender barriers that limit women's engagement in the labour market. At the backdrop of these barriers, decades of civil war have exacerbated gendered experiences of discrimination and have increased the financial and social responsibilities of women within their households. With a notable increase in female heads of households in Sri Lanka, it is increasingly more important to identify barriers women face in supporting their households and to develop meaningful policies to support them. By way of using 120 in-depth interviews from the districts of Mannar, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Jaffna, and Vavuniya this report contextualizes the narratives of women in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka in the post-war context in order to illustrate their diverse experiences of labour engagement, the barriers they face when engaging in livelihoods, the direct impacts that the war has had on their lives and their livelihoods and implications for policy.



Limits of Expression: Creative Artists and Censorship in Sri Lanka

by Annemarie de Silva

Through an examination of the experiences of political cartoonists and film-makers, this study maps mechanisms by which political censorship is exercised on creative artists in Sri Lanka. This includes official forms of censorship such as the Public Performances Board and the emergency era censorship of the press. It also looks at the instrumentalisation of state institutions to execute extra-legal and subterranean (O'Higgins) forms of censorship. It examines informal censorship, ranging from friendly collegial censorship to outright physical attacks from unidentifiable members of the public. The study concludes with a reflection on the consequences of a long-standing culture of censorship and self-censorship on historicity and the future of free expression in artistic communities.

**Women’s Economic Empowerment: A Literature Review
(in Sinhala & Tamil)**

by Ranmini Vithanagama



A shift of focus from women as recipients of development aid to active agents of economic development has given increasing prominence to creating gender equality through women’s empowerment. Although there are many definitions of empowerment, the essence of it all remains the same – an effective expansion of her agency. While there are many facets to women’s empowerment, their economic empowerment is

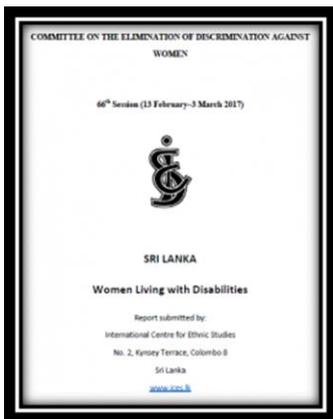
important both due to its positive impact on a country’s economic development as well as the wellbeing of its next generation. Women’s economic empowerment is the result of an interplay of a number of factors. Gender norms, women’s education, their access to resources and even an armed conflict can play a role in shaping women’s ability to make choices. This literature review is an examination of the current evidence on women’s economic empowerment, both to better understand the definition and factors that influence women’s empowerment.

REPORTS

Sri Lanka: Women Living with Disabilities (in English, Sinhala & Tamil)

With a view to facilitating the participation of marginalised communities in national development and reconciliation, ICES prepared a Shadow Report on ‘Sri Lanka: Women Living with Disabilities’ to highlight some key issues relating to the rights of girls and women with disabilities. The Shadow Report was presented at the CEDAW Committee at its 66th Session which was held from 13 February to 3 March 2017.

It was the first time a shadow report on disability from Sri Lanka had been presented before the CEDAW Committee.



LECTURES & DISCUSSIONS

- Lecture on “Make the Impossible Possible” by Janis McDavid on 9 January 2017. (Colombo)
- Talk on “Sexual Harassment in the Workplace in Sri Lanka: The Tip of the Iceberg?” by Shyamali Ranaraja (Kandy) 18 January 2017
- Talk on “Mourning the Dead and Remaking Social Ties: Life in a War-torn Tamil Village of Sri Lanka (An Anthropological Study of ‘Post-Conflict’)” by Mari Kikuchi on 9 March 2017 (Kandy)
- Lecture on “What will a Mixed Member Proportional Representation (MMP) Electoral System do for Sri Lanka? Comparative Evidence from other Democracies” by Dr Evan Liaras on 22 March 2017. (Colombo)
- Discussion on “School on the Hill” - a collection of short fiction by Vihanga Perera, May 20 (Kandy)
- Lecture on “A Life of Worry: Therapeutic Selfhood in Vietnam’s Age of Anxiety” by Dr Allen L. Tran on 6 June 2017. (Colombo)
- Lecture on “The Role of the Constitutional Court in South Africa” by Justice Dikgang Moseneke on 28 June 2017. (Colombo)
- The Launch of ‘City’ - A quarterly journal of South Asian literature in English, 19 July 2017. (Kandy)
- Lecture on “The Power of Paper Tigers: Rumors about Reproduction and Reproduction of Rumors in the Up-country of Sri Lanka” by Dr Daniel Bass, South Asia Program Manager, Cornell University, USA on 4 August 2017. (Kandy)
- Book Launch: The Launch of ‘The Making of a Historian: A Memoir’ by Professor K. M. de Silva on 16 August 2017. (Kandy)
- Panel discussion on “Hidden Voices: Gendered Experiences of Marginalization and Recovery” 3 September 2017. (Colombo)
- Talk by “Does Charity Wound? Micro-Analysis of Interaction between the Dwellers of a Home for Elders and Dāna Donors” by Sae Nakamura, Kyoto University on 20 September 2017. (Kandy)
- Orientation Programme for 20 international volunteers, at the request of Service Civil International (SCI), Sri Lanka (SCI has been active since 1920, is an INGO committed to promoting peace through voluntary services) by Prof. Tudor Silva and Vasantha Premaratne on 12 October 2017. (Kandy)
- Lecture on “Mediating Political Compromises through the Constitution” by Professor Yash Ghai on 23 October 2017. (Colombo)

- Panel discussion on “Barriers Experienced by Women With and Without Disabilities to Participation and Inclusion in Post-War Development Programmes and Reconciliation Processes” on 26 October. (Colombo)
- Discussion on “Portuguese Burghers of Sri Lanka, Their Language, and Cultural Expression” on 31 October 2017. (Colombo) Introduction by Hugo Cardoso (University of Lisbon); The Portuguese Burgher Community in Modern Sri Lanka by Earl Barthelot (Representative of the Portuguese Burgher Community); Sri Lanka Portuguese Language: Main Characteristics and History by Hugo Cardoso (University of Lisbon); Linguistic Data Collection and Archiving by Patrícia Costa (University of Lisbon); Sri Lanka Portuguese and the Portuguese Burghers: Attitudes and Identities by Dinali Fernando (University of Kelaniya); A Socio-linguistic Survey of the Community and Revitalisation Opportunities by Rui Pereira (University of Lisbon); Research on Burgher Music and Dance by Mahesh Radhakrishnan (University of Lisbon).
- Lecture on “A Village Over Time: International Migration and Prawn Farming in Coastal Wayamba” by Prof. Jock Stirrat on 17 November 2017. (Colombo)

FILM SCREENINGS

- Arranged – 30 January
- Wretches and Jabberers - 3 March
- Arranged – 28 March (Kandy)
- La La Land by Damien Chazell - 31 May
- Margarita With a Straw by Shonali Bose - 7 July
- The Salesman (Iran) by Asghar Farhadi - 31 August
- Loving by Jeff Nichols - 29 September
- The Judge by David Dobkin - 26 October
- The Pianist by Roman Polanski - 14 December

Film Festivals

- American Movie Classics: A Festival of Award Winning Films (20-24 February) - Colombo
Taxi Driver (1976) - 20 February
High Noon (1952) - 21 February
Lilies of the Field (1963) - 22 February
The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (1947) - 23 February
The Defiant Ones (1958) - 24 February
- International Women's Day Film Festival - films by Women Directors (8-29 March) - Colombo
Women without Men by Shirin Neshat - 8 March
The Namesake by Mira Nair - 10 March
In a Better World by Susanne Bier - 15 March
The Hurt Locker by Kathryn Bigelow - 24 March
Wadjda by Haifaa Al-Mansour - 29 March
- Sinhala Film Festival: A Festival of Award Winning Films (July-August)
Sath Samudura (1967) by Siri Gunasinghe - 17 July
Delowak Athara (1966) Lester James Peries - 21 July
Viragaya (1987) by Tissa Abeysekera - 28 July
Suddilage Kathawa (1984) by Dharmasiri Bandaranayake - 4 August
Machan (2008) by Uberto Pasolini - 11 August
Dadayama (1984) by Vasantha Obeysekera - 18 August

Documentary Films

- Butterfly - A documentary film on "Child Soldiers of Sri Lanka's Brutal War" by Vishnu Vasu – 28 January 2017 (Kandy)

WEBSITE

The ICES website was re-designed in order to reflect the mandate of the institution as a research centre. The ICES team worked closely with the web designing team *rukizone* to develop a suitable template that would show case the work ICES has done in the past and is currently engaged in. The interface was made more user-friendly and also incorporated photographs/videos directly on the homepage so that stakeholders will get a very clear indication regarding the work of ICES. The projects and gallery are presented thematically to convey that ICES works across a wide range of thematic areas including women and development, disability, religious co-existence, transitional justice and social inclusion.

The events calendar was designed so as to highlight and give prominence to the different movie screenings, literary evenings and panel discussions hosted by ICES. The ICES publications are featured on the website, and can be accessed directly by scholars, academics, students and others. An archive is available to access all past research of the organisation. The library and auditorium facilities have also been given more prominence on the website to promote their usage. It was felt that the library is under-utilised and needs to be showcased so that more researchers, academics and students can benefit from its wealth of materials. The facilities in the auditorium have also been listed so that it will continue to be used for diverse discussions, screenings and plays.

LIBRARY

The two libraries in Colombo and Kandy constitute the central academic facility of the Centre, both in resources and standing as the repository of knowledge. The library specialises in social sciences and women's studies with strong collections on ethnicity, culture and history. It also has an excellent collection on law, religion, anthropology, transitional justice and fiction. It contains one of the best collections on ethnicity and identity politics in the country.

The library plays an important role in all academic activities of ICES. It is not only used by the research staff of the Centre, but also serves scholars, academics, senior government officials, politicians, media people, universities and other research institutes. The library holdings include material usually unavailable to scholars from the Asian region.

The ICES Colombo completed 70 per cent of the digitalisation of its library catalogue in 2017. The number of books, journals and reports digitalised and made available for online search by the end of the project would be approximately 12,000 titles. This list covers a number of cross-cutting areas such as justice, religious violence, nationalism, human rights, constitutional law and reconciliation. All the books are available at the library for public reference.

AUDITORIUM

The ICES auditorium which initially started in a 'thatched patio' in the previous building adjacent, has over these 36 years been transformed into a modern and attractive facility. Over these years it has been the site of a number of conversations, academic discussions, film screenings and poetry readings on a variety of topics from constitutional reform to displacement to religious freedom to plays and exhibitions 'about the past'.

The auditorium's facilities have been recently enhanced by adding a state-of-the-art sound system, two ceiling mounted projectors and two screens at both ends of the hall. It also has facilities for simultaneous interpretation and a patio for informal discussions and receptions. Maximum seating capacity is for approximately 90 persons. The area has Wi-Fi coverage as well. A generator has been recently added.

Consequently, the venue has been sought by organisations for its seminars, academic discussions and film screenings. It has emerged as an 'alternative site' for a broad range of academic and artistic activities.

INTERNS

- Rosa de Buissonjé: Masters Student in International Conflicts, Netherlands (28 February 2017 - 31 May 2017)
- Asala Nanayakkara: Monash University (16 January - 16 February 2017)
- Stine Engen: University of Copenhagen (18 September - 15 December 2017)
- Shonali Thangiah: University College, London (6 November 2017 - till Mid-January 2018)
- Arushka Theagarajah: University College, London (12 June - 26 June 2017)
- Natasha Karunaratne: Tufts University, USA (15 December 2016 - 15 January 2017)
- Megha Nagaswami: University of Pennsylvania, South Asia Center (12 June - 12 August 2017) - Kandy
- Rishabb Tagore: University of Pennsylvania, South Asia Center (12 June - 4 August 2017) - Kandy

VISITING FELLOWS

- Dr Hugo Cardoso: Post-doctoral Visiting Researcher/Affiliate, University of Lisbon (January - 31 December 2017)
- Saarah Monawvil: Visiting Researcher, New York University (19 January - 1 February 2017)
- Dr Evangelos Liaras: Post-Doctoral Researcher/Affiliate, IE University of Spain (30 January - 24 March 2017)
- Deborah de Koning: PhD student, Tilburg University, Netherlands (9 March - 12 June 2017)

STAFF

Executive Director

Mario Gomez (PhD, University of Colombo)

Director Research (Kandy)

K. Tudor Silva (PhD, Monash University)

Emeritus Fellow

Radhika Coomaraswamy (LL.M, Harvard; JD, Columbia)

Research Fellow

Nireka Weeratunga (PhD, Anthropology, University of Toronto)

Research Staff

- Kasun Pathiraja – Senior Project Coordinator (M.Sc., Environmental Economics, University of Peradeniya)
- Danesh Jayatilaka – Research Fellow, MBA, University of Sri Jayewardenapura
- Faslan Mohamed – Programme Officer, MA (Political Science), University of Colombo (*left 31 December 2017*)
- Nadine Vanniasinkam – Programme Officer, MA; LL.B (Applied Linguistics), University of Melbourne
- Dinushka Jayawickreme – Programme Officer, BA (English) University of Colombo (*left 31 October 2017*)
- Ranmini Vithanagama – Researcher, MA (Economics) University of Colombo
- Nirimi Vitarana – Researcher, MA (Sustainable Development), Brandeis University, USA (*left December 2017*)
- Harini Dias Bandaranayake – Programme Officer, MA (Development Studies) University of Colombo
- Annemari de Silva – Researcher (*joined 15 February 2017*)
- Viyanga Gunasekera – Programme Assistant (*joined 15 July 2017*)
- Savini Ganhewa – Programme Officer (*from 13 March to 30 September 2017*)
- Anjela Devarajan – Programme Assistant (*from 1 September to 30 November 2017*)

Administrative, Finance, IT and Library

- Chalani Lokugamage (CIMA, UK) – Finance and Administration Manager
- Ponnudurai Thambirajah – Chief Librarian
- B. M. Mowsil – PA to the Executive Director
- Gallage Ayoma Shyamalee – Finance Officer
- Bhagya Wijayasooriya – Accounts Executive
- Dimuth Geethananda – Assistant Librarian/IT Officer
- Lakmali Alwis – Assistant Librarian
- Anthony Christopher – Receptionist
- Kandiah Raveendran – Office Assistant
- Rengasamy Arumugam – Office Assistant

- Iranga Silva – Librarian; Publications Officer; Managing Editor- IJESS (Kandy)
- Vasantha Premaratne – Programme Coordinator (Kandy)
- Samarakoon Bandara – Administrative/Accounts Executive (Kandy)
- Niranjala Sarojini – Librarian (*left 13 March 2017*)
- Saleeka Peiris – Secretary and Receptionist (Kandy)
- R. Wasantha Jayawathie – Office Assistant (Kandy)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Daneshan Casie Chetty (Chairman)

Retired Career Diplomat

Tissa Jayatilaka

Executive Director of the US - Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission

Rajan Asirwatham

Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka, Corporate Director and former Senior Partner and Country Head of KPMG Ford Rhodes Thornton & Company

K. M. de Silva

Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and Founder, former Chairman and Executive Director of ICES; Retired Professor of Sri Lanka History, University of Peradeniya

S. H. Hasbullah

Retired Professor of Geography, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Wijaya Jayatilaka

Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Extension, University of Peradeniya and former Executive Director, Transparency International

Gnana Moonesinghe

Civil Society Activist and Writer/Author

Shafinaz Hassendeen

Former Senior ILO Officer and Labour/Gender Specialist

Jayadeva Uyangoda

Former Professor of Political Science and Public Policy, University of Colombo and presently Emeritus Professor, University of Colombo.

FINANCE: KANDY/COLOMBO

Financial Position as at 31 March 2017

B.R.DE SILVA & CO.

Chartered Accountants



Private & Confidential

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ETHNIC STUDIES

1. Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of International Centre for Ethnic Studies, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31st March 2017, and the statement of Income and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and, Statement of Cash Flow for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

2. Board's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Board of Directors ("Board") is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards for SME's, and for such internal controls as Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

3. Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by Board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



Partners - N.S.C. De Silva FCA, FCMA(UK), L.C.Piyasena FCA, L.L.S. Wickremasinghe FCA,
F.S.N. Marikkar FCA, S.M.S.S. Bandara MBA, FCA, D.S. De Silva LLB, Attorney-at-Law
ACA, ACMA(UK)

Partner (Kandy) W.L.L. Perera FCA

22/4,
Vijaya Kumaranatunga Mv.,
Colombo 05.
Telephone: 0112 513 420-22
Fax: 0114 512 404

E-mail : brds@eureka.lk
www.brdesilva.com

4. Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31st March 2017, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards for SME's.

Without qualifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note (26) to the Financial Statements.

5. Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by section 163 (2) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007, we state the following:

- a) The basis of opinion and scope and limitations of the audit are as stated above.
- b) In our opinion :
 - We have obtained all the information and explanations that were required for the audit and, as far as it appears from our examination, proper accounting records have been kept by the Company.
 - The financial statements of the Company, comply with the requirements of section 151 of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007.

B.R. De Silva
B. R. DE SILVA & CO.
Chartered Accountants

Colombo 05.

Date: 23/8/2017

LCP/NM/ds



A summary of the financial statements for 2016/17 are given below:

INCOME STATEMENT

Incoming Resources	Rs
Project Grants	81,777,411
Income from Funds	8,538,798
Other	5,414,449
	<hr/>
Total Incoming Resources	95,730,658
	<hr/>
 Expenses	
Project Expenses	81,777,411
Administration	11,602,278
Finance	68,613
Income Tax	1,257
	<hr/>
Total Expenses	93,449,559
	<hr/>
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	2,281,099
	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

BALANCE SHEET

Assets	Rs
Current Assets	41,263,519
Non-current Assets	333,113,936
	<hr/>
Total Assets	374,377,455
	<hr/> <hr/>
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	940,302
Non-current Liabilities	14,018,957
	<hr/>
Total Liabilities	14,959,259
	<hr/>
Accumulated Fund	
Restricted	102,217,730
Unrestricted	186,100,924
Revaluation Reserve	71,099,542
	<hr/>
Total Accumulated Fund	359,418,196
	<hr/>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	374,377,455
	<hr/> <hr/>

Financial Position as at 31 March 2018

TUDOR V. PERERA & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Telephone : 011 2828749 / 011 2828759
Fax : 011 2768448
E-mail : tudorv@slt.net.lk

No. 296/20, Shanthi Mawatha,
High Level Road, Kirulapone,
Colombo 06.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR ETHNIC STUDIES

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of International Centre for Ethnic Studies, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31st March 2018, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in accumulated fund and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Centre as at 31st March 2018 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium Sized Entities (SLFRS for SME's).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards (SLAuSs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Centre in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by CA Sri Lanka (Code of Ethics) and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Sri Lanka Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium Sized Entities (SLFRS for SME's) and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Centre's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Centre or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Centre's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SLAuSs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Contd...IVP-

Partners:
S.M.N.L. Senanayake, B.Sc. (Pub.Admin), FCA
Mrs. B.A.R.W. Senanayake, FCA
B.A. Kapila Ariyaratilaka, ACA

M.T. Lantra

TUDOR V. PERERA & CO.
Chartered Accountants

~ 2 ~

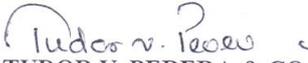
As part of an audit in accordance with SLAuSs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Centre's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Centre's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Centre to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

As required by section 163 (2) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007, we have obtained all the information and explanations that were required for the audit and, as far as appears from our examination, proper accounting records have been kept by the Centre.


TUDOR V. PERERA & CO.
Chartered Accountants

Colombo.
Date: 30.8.2018

A summary of the financial statements for 2017/18 are given below:

INCOME STATEMENT

Incoming Resources	Rs
Project Grants	108,314,056
Income from Funds	10,961,925
Other	5,086,325
	<hr/>
Total Incoming Resources	124,362,306
	<hr/>
 Expenses	
Project Expenses	108,314,056
Administration	9,799,543
Finance	-
Income Tax	1,257
	<hr/>
Total Expenses	118,114,856
	<hr/>
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	6,247,450
	<u>=====</u>

BALANCE SHEET

Assets	Rs
Current Assets	60,921,259
Non-current Assets	331,108,134
	<hr/>
Total Assets	392,029,393
	<hr/> <hr/>
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	5,190,060
Non-current Liabilities	16,490,207
	<hr/>
Total Liabilities	21,680,267
	<hr/>
Accumulated Fund	
Restricted	106,956,100
Unrestricted	192,430,484
Revaluation Reserve	70,962,542
	<hr/>
Total Accumulated Fund	370,349,126
	<hr/>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	392,029,393
	<hr/> <hr/>

International Centre for Ethnic Studies

COLOMBO OFFICE

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KANDY OFFICE

554/6A, Peradeniya Road, Kandy, Sri Lanka

Tel: 94 81 2232381; 94 81 2234892

Fax: 94 81 2234892