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ABSTRACT



Civil Military Relations (CMR) which had gained more attention particularly after the Second World War is considered to be one of the leading challenges that the democratic countries across the world have to face and interestingly, it has been the subject of a many academic literatures over many years. However, frequent changes in the international politics, geo-political scenarios and domestic politics often bring up the requirement of revisiting CMR in order to strike a balance between civil and military entities. Therefore frequent revisiting is important for any country including Sri Lanka. Hence researcher endeavors to measure the Civil Military Relations status in Sri Lanka and to achieve that researcher structured the research in to qualitative framework taking Sri Lanka as a single case study. For that researcher obtained the expert opinions and ideas through key informant interviews and through document analysis data triangulation was achieved. Therefore, this dissertation explains the nature of CMR in Sri Lanka and challenges which encountering to maintain healthy CMR with possible strategies to overcome those challenges. It is evident that the nature of CMR is decent in Sri Lanka. This was facilitated by the level of professionalism of the military, higher degree of military compliance, lower degree of distrust, loyalty of top military leaders, higher degree of alignment of intensions of the civil and military leaders, personnel traits of the top military leaders, neutral political ideologies of the military and efficient communication and intelligence. Coups, less professionalism of politicians, control of mass media by politicians, use of military for political intentions, potential influences from political ideologies and absence of procedures for handling unethical orders as challenges for maintaining healthy CMR.

Key Words: Civil Military Relations, Coups, Military Compliance, Military Professionalism

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