

ABSTRACT



This research examines the impact of downsizing Sri Lanka Army on the national security and humanitarian operations for enhancing the human wellbeing of general public of Sri Lanka. There is no hesitation that Sri Lanka Army have been awarded as heros or '*Ranaviuvo*' by the Sri Lankans due to their dedication in urgencies of the motherland. There is an ongoing discussion on downsizing of Sri Lanka Army after winning over terrorists in 2009 among different political parties, civil organizations, media, and general publics. According to the existing literature it is evident that reducing Army will become a red-hot issue in the present-day security environment. Eventhough some of the political parties, civil organizations and media pointout that there is a restructing instead of downsizing, some other political parties and civil organizations continue poinout that there is a downsizing. Meantime, Tamil Political parties, and Tamil Diaspora have claimed that Sri Lanka Army continues to be strengthening in the North and East Provinces.

In this context, downsizing would negatively effect to the security due to the fact that the Army will lose its fighting power and combat effectiveness to a greater extent. Therefore, debates on downsizing Sri Lanka Army developed a huge discussion locally and internationally.

Understanding the significance of these unrests and debates on the downsizing, the study has paid attention to achieve 03 objectives; to identify the main factors affecting the national security, to find out the relationship between downsizing of Army and its implications to the national security, and to ascertain the implications to the national security after downsizing the Army.

For conducting the field survey, 70 officers representing Sri Lanka Army have been selected by stratified and random sampling method and collected data for the structured questionnaire which comprised of 20 questions which covered 04 sections; deployment, intelligence, disaster management, and insurgent. For collecting some of qualitative data, 06 semi structured key informant interviews conducted with selected intellectuals those who are in the Army and other organizations involved in strategic planning. The descriptive statistics and Pearson co-

relation under inferential statistics have been used for data analyzing and statistical tables, appropriate graphs, and charts were used for presenting the results of the study.

The conclusion of the study has clearly shown that there is an inseparable relationship between downsizing the Army and national security of a country. The study revealed that downsizing negatively impacts to the national security and to the services which ensure the human wellbeing of a country, and the regional imbalances within a country and it may have negatively impacted to peace and reconciliation process of a country. The study has clearly mentioned that, without conducting the contextual analysis, downsizing the Sri Lanka Army is not recommended.

