

Changing Threat Dimensions; Preventing Extremism in the Digital Age

C Patabendige^{1#}

¹Institute of National Security Studies, 8th Floor, "Suhurupaya", Battaramulla, Sri Lanka

#charani.patabendige@gmail.com

Abstract

Extremism poses a persistent and significant threat for the stability of a nation. It is a complex psychological phenomenon that gradually leads to tangible actions, extending beyond its narrow military aspects. Countering extremism in present digital era requires innovative strategies to effectively address and prevent it within the changing digital landscape. Therefore, this research aims to explore the intricate relationship between extremism and its implications for national security in the digital sphere. Sri Lanka's historical experiences with extremism, both before and after digitalization, add unique dimensions to this examination. Understanding how the digital age has become a fertile ground for disseminating and amplifying extremist ideologies is crucial for formulating effective countermeasures. Leveraging the digital space to counteract and prevent extremism warrants exploration. Using a qualitative methodology, this study will investigate the evolving threat landscape through various analysis techniques. By shedding light on these changes, it seeks to uncover the complexities associated with preventing extremism in the digital age. The findings will inform recommendations to reduce its impact.

Keywords: *Digital space, Extremism, Security, Sri Lanka*