

Greetings from the HoD:

I have been reflecting as to how much I enjoy this opportunity to recount and look back reflecting at what we have done and achieved as a group through harmonious effort during the past few months, even encountering a relentless holocaust of coronavirus pandemic, but thinking on the overall development of the department. The hubble-bubble of the past academic semester did not allow me much time to sit on one place admiring and appreciating each other's achievements, contributions, mentorship and collegiality, however unheard their effort brought about countless fruits everywhere apparent.

Foremost, in my mind, are the success of this year's graduating class, whose achievements we admired in the general convocation in December 2019. I congratulate Ms. J.P. Anushika Sandamali and Ms. Lakmi Nilanka who were honoured with the *Ranaweera Banda Memorial Gold medal* for the best achievement in 2018 and 2019 while appreciating commitment of all other final-year students. Besides, those who studied psychological counselling were awarded diplomas in February 2020. On the graduate side, my congratulation is extended to those who have completed their masters in Sociology, 2019.

We as sociologists and social anthropologists believe that intent participation and learning through real-life experience are essential pedagogies of learning sociology, as field-based activates provide a first hand and an original learning experience, some field-based learning sessions were organized collaboratively with the students and the faculty. I shall reflect how our final year students

socially engaged with a community in special care and needs, as a part of their final year applied course-work activity. Those students have organized a project to help vagrants, in that they demonstrated their overall capacities not just limited to organizing, leadership, planning and implementation of context responsive policies while incorporating learned rigorous theories and approaches. Besides, our third-year students visited *Lankagama*, an

ancient traditional village in the southern province to understand how peasants have been affected by globalization.

Moreover, the sociological association has been very active during the past few months and has organized several seminars and discussions on several themes not just limited to sociology, anthropology, education, and

epistemology. What I have particularly noted is that, widening opportunities and giving a platform to students where they can exert their fullest potential showing different talents would then contribute to their overall development, particularly including emotional intelligence. That in turn, can help improve their academic achievements. Among many, the action research organized by the sociological association was one of the compelling activity well attended by both academics and students while taking the community participation into their mainstreamed policy activities.

In April, 2020 we welcomed our new sociology special group (2020) while saying goodbye to our final year students who entered the university in 2015.



Staff members of the department participating with students in a field based learning experience at Ridiyagama

Meanwhile, in the past year we said goodbye to our esteemed colleague, teacher **Professor Sarath Amarasinghe** and **Dr. Susha Thenabadu**. They were active faculty members of the department from its inception at the University of Ruhuna. **Professor Sarath Amarasinghe** was bestowed with the emeritus professorship at the department, and he collaborating with Samitha, provided a brief communication to this newsletter. In addition, I have the pleasure to welcome our new faculty to the department, **Mrs. N. Ruwanpathirana** and **Ms. I. Wanniarachchi**. Also, I am really happy about achievements of our colleagues, particularly I thus congratulate **Dr. Upali Pannilage** on his conferment in the professorship and **Mrs. Pushpa Ekanayake** on her completion of PhD in Medical Sociology. **Mr. Suranjith Gunasekara** is also congratulated as he was promoted to the Grade 1 in Senior Lecturer category.

Especially, I shall acknowledge the support received always when required by **Mr. Manjula** and **Mr. Shelton**.

In signing off, it reminds me to thank **Mr. Samitha Udayanaga**, **Mr. Upul Sanjeewa** and **Mr. Susith Siriwardhana** for their commitment in editing this newsletter.

With best wishes,



Dr Hemantha Kumara

Faculty –

Dr. Hemantha Kumara : Head of the Department

Prof. Upali Pannilage : Dean of the Faculty

Dr. Wijekoon Banda

Dr. Pushpa Ekanayake

Dr. Gayathri Wijesundera

Ms. P.K.M. Dissanayake

Dr. Dushmanthi Silva

Mr. Suranjith Gunasekara

Dr. Thilak Wijesundera

Mr. Upul Sanjeewa

Mr. Samitha Udayanga

Ms. Ishara Wanniarachchi

Ms. Niroscha Ruwanpathirana

Ms. Lakmee Nilanka

Ms. Dinthi Parthibha

Ms. Dinesha Lakmali

Mr. Susith Siriwardhana

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Please send comments and news vial email to : samitha@soci.ruh.ac.lk

CREDITS

Editing and general text: *Mr. Samitha Udayanga and Mr. Upul Sanjeewa Wijepala*

Design: *Mr. Samitha Udayanga and Mr. Susith Siriwardhana*

Faculty News –



Dr. Hemantha Kumara is a senior lecturer in sociology. He successfully completed his PhD in the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka recently. At present, he serves as the Head of the Department. He is interested in researching on Gender Studies, Globalization and Development, Sociology of Literature, Psychological Counseling, Changeology. Recently published a book on Counseling Psychology; Theory and Practice (2019) and also an edition on Sociology: Basic Concepts, Theories and Methods. Furthermore, The Impact of Globalization March on Gender Relationships in Rural Family Units for Sri Lanka Journal of Social Work (2019) and an Investigation of the Ideology of Theories and Models related to Globalization Process for The Faculty Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences- FJHSS (2019) can be presented as his nearest Publications in Refereed Journals. He participated in MCIMSD 2020 (My Cultural Identity-My Sustainable Development 2020) and presented under the topic “A New Perspective for the Identification of Social Stratification in Contemporary Rural Sri Lanka” in India.



Professor Upali Pannilage Dr. Upali Pannilage was promoted to the Professor of Sociology in 2019, and he is the current Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. He has published abstracts on Domestication and Exclusion of Women: A Study on Estate Sector Women in Southern Sri Lanka with P.H.R Epa and Externalization of Community War Memorialization in Post War Sri Lanka: A study based on War Memorials in Sri Lanka with A.M.A Gunasekara in the Ruhuna University International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (RUICHSS-2019), University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka in 2019. Besides, he completed studies pertinent to the Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Development Studies at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, 2020.



Dr. T.M. Wijekoon Banda, Senior Lecturer in Sociology resumed duties after his sabbatical leave and continue to teach Social psychology and criminology at the Department. His interested research areas focus on the Impact of Caste on

Socio- Economic Mobility, Anthropological Village Studies in Sri Lanka, Child Prostitutions in Sri Lanka and Traditional Irrigation Institutions in Sri Lanka. He is conducting a research on Upward Socio – Economic Mobility among low caste communities in Rural Sri Lanka. Recently he was appointed as a member of the research on Socio- Economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic conducted by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Dr. Wijekoon Banda also contributes as a member of the editorial panel of the “Prathimana Journal” of the Department of Sociology. Meanwhile, he is conducting a research on “Agrarian despair and labor migration - An Analysis of contemporary issues in Rural Agricultural sector in Sri Lanka.



Dr. P.R. Ekanayake She completed her PhD successfully this year. At present, she is serving as the coordinator of the diploma course in psychological counselling conducted by the Department of Sociology as well as a mentor in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Recently she has published on an Inquiry into the Identity and concepts of the Native Medical System in Sri Lanka, for the E-Journal of Social Works (Bi-Annual), National Institute of Social Development, Ministry of Housing and Social Welfare and competency and Challenges of Traditional Medical Systems in Post-Colonial Sri Lanka, for the E-Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna. She is also a member of Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS). She participated in MCIMSD 2020 (My Cultural Identity-My Sustainable Development 2020) in India, February 2020.



Dr. Gayathri Wijesundera has written to several newspapers on currently concerned issues through a sociological perspective, for example, ‘COVID 19 and the role of government’. In December 2019 She took part in a conference held at Dakha, Bangladesh. During the past three months, Gayathri served as a member of the research on COVID-19 geared by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. On the knowledge dissemination side, her contribution has been compelling. She participated as the guest speaker of the Women’s Day Discussion organized by Akuressa Divisional Secretariat. Furthermore, she

delivered a speech about ‘early age marriage among girls in Sri Lanka’ at Devunadara divisional secretariat. Also, she welcomed by Sri Fm, Ran Fm and Lak FM as a guest speaker. She contributed furthermore in compiling an ethical code for counsellors in Sri Lanka. She was also invited by the University of Kelaniya to speak about soft skills to Undergraduate students.



SLLI Seva Vanitha Educates Membership



Ms. P.K.M. Dissanayake is on study leave from 2017 as she reads for her PhD in Sociology at the University of Kelaniya.



Dr. Dushmanthi Silva is a senior lecturer in the department and once she obtained her PhD in Sociology from the Tribhuvan University specializing in Migration and Social Policy she has published a number of papers in internationally reputed journals. “Nexus between Women Labour Migrants, Protection and Policy Implementation: A Study on National Labour Migration Policy Implementation in Sri Lanka” was appeared in the Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review in 2019. Besides, she severed as the coordinator in MA in Peace and Development Studies (2018/2020).



Mr. A.M.A.S. Gunasekara is a Senior Lecturer (Grade I) in Sociology at University of Ruhuna. He is currently pursuing his Doctoral Degree at the University of Ruhuna (Partially studied in the Norwegian University of Life Science and COSMAT in Pakistan). The Doctoral Thesis: Civil War in Sri Lanka during the Period from 1983 to 2009 and Reconciliation Process: Role of Memory and Interpretation in Ethnic Relations has been submitted on December 2019 by himself. In recent he has published a full paper on Rumors as a Political Instrument: Transformation of Interpersonal Rivalry to Inter-Ethnic riot: A Study based on Riot in Mawanella in Sri Lanka for the International Symposium, Conducted by South Eastern University, Sri Lanka and also Role of Economic and Political Factors in Ethnic Riot: A Study Based on Mawanella Ethnic Riot for the International Conference, Conducted by Royal Asiatic Society, Sri Lanka in 2019 and Erasing Identities of Minority Communities: A Study Based on Coastal Indigenous People of Vahare Batticaloa, Sri Lanka as an Abstract for Academic Session, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka with Lahiru D Zoysa in 2020 under recent abstracts in National and International Conference Proceedings.



Dr. P.M.T.C. Wijesundara read for his LLB Degree in The Open University of Sri Lanka, from 2013 to 2018. He is also a member in Royal Asiatic Society, Sri Lanka. In 2018 he has made a publication under the topic ‘A Sociological Investigation of the Determinants of Employee and Organizational Effectiveness in Sri Lankan Public Sector Organizations’ in the Faculty Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, 2018 with W.A.N.D Wijesinghe, and R.C Ketipearachchi. Currently, he serves as a member of the “research on the sociological impact of Covid-19”.



Mr. Upul Sanjeewa Wijepala is currently pursuing his Doctoral Degree in Sociology of Irrigation at the Pondicherry University, India. His Research areas primarily focus on the issues of Participatory Irrigation Management in South Asia, Gender and Water Governance, Caste Dynamics and its Developmental Implications, Anthropological Studies of Village Communities in Sri Lanka and Culture and Society in South Asia etc.

During the past semester he has been engaging in many activities for promoting and focusing on Qualitative Research Methods and Qualitative Data Analyzing Tools and Techniques among the undergraduates in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. He has conducted several workshops for them and participated as a resource person of the workshop on “Academic Writing and Social Research” conducted by the Sociological Association, Department of Sociology.

Recently he participated as a resource person for the online discussion under the topic of 'Education and its Challenges in Times of the Covid-19 Pandemic', Organized by Sri Palee Campus Radio, Center for Media Research and Department of Mass Media of Sri Palee Campus, University of Colombo held on 8 April 2020. In addition, Mr. Wijepala is also serving as a member of the editorial panel of the “Prathimana Journal” of the Department of Sociology. He is also one of the student counsellors of the Faculty and serving as a member of the Ethics Review Committee of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna. Also, Coordinator of the diploma in psychological counselling at the Department of Sociology. Currently, he is working on the research project on “Changing Gender Contours in the Management of Irrigated Agriculture: Reexamining the Patriarchal Cliché in Rural Sri Lanka”.



Mr. Upul Sanjeewa participating as a resource person in an online panel discussion on COVID 19 and Education.



Mr. Samitha Udayanga travelled, as usual to two Asian countries during the past semester. He travelled to Indonesia to take part in a conference on Social Work and education therein he presented a paper on ‘early childhood education in disadvantaged communities in Sri Lanka’, and during his stay at Bali, Samitha conducted research on religious symbolism and lay reflections. Next, he visited the University of Delhi to attend a seminar on ‘Food and Anthropology’ where he delivered a speech on ‘Food sovereignty and food movements’. In addition, he was facilitated by the Delhi University to collect data from *Rishikesh*, India to his continuing research on ‘religion, spirituality and human wellbeing’.



Samitha receiving an award of competency at the conference on Anthropology of food and Health, Delhi University

Two outstanding research articles of Samitha were appeared in two journals focusing ‘southern theory and epistemological dependence’. He was also served as a member of the editorial panel of the Faculty e-journal, Faculty Conference and now too continues to serve as one of the editorial members of the Students Research Conference. While doing his MPhil in Sociology focusing on ‘early childhood education and cultural influence, he also continues writing particularly on ‘southern theory; and ‘medical anthropology’. Currently, he serves as a member of the research project geared by the department on ‘Problems encountered by young Buddhist monks in their education’. Thinking on knowledge dissemination to the public, Samitha has participated in some radio discussions that focused on ‘aftermath of COVID-19’ and ‘brain drain and migration’.

He was also one of the student counsellors of the Faculty and the coordinator of the Tamil language proficiency course offered by the centre for modern languages and civilizations.



Ms. Nirosha Ruwanpathirana is a recently recruited faculty member to the department since November 2019. Before joining the department, she served as a visiting in the Centre for the Study of Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo. Besides, she is a

Lawyer. She was appointed as a Notary Public, Registration as a Secretary and as a Commissioner for Oaths from 2019.

In addition, Nirosha is actively working as a member of the research team, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences that focus on problems associated with rural Bikku community since April 2020. She also leads the collaborative research project on Problems related to education among Young Buddhist Monks in Sri Lanka.

Moreover, she served as a member of the Editorial Board (2019). Prathimana: Journal of The Department of Sociology, University of Ruhuna. Furthermore, she was the academic coordinator of Several course units offered by the Department of Sociology as follows: Organizational Management, Social Aspect of Child Labour, Social Conflict and Conflict Transformation, Political Sociology (English). In addition, she is a Student Mentor of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. She furthermore gave her cooperation toward the success of Academic Session- 2020, as a Member of Ceremonial Committee. Moreover, Nirosha is a Committee Member of the International Collaboration & Youth Affairs Circle of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.



Ms. Ishara Wanniarachchi is one of the newly recruited members in the department of sociology from November, 2019. Before joining the department she has worked as a temporary assistant lecturer in Sociology in University of Peradeniya, University of Colombo and

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. Furthermore, she served as a visiting lecturer and resource person in several universities and institutions including Aquinas College of Higher Studies and Post Basic College of Nursing in Colombo.

Within the past semester, she has completed Higher National Diploma of Counselling in Institute of Human Resource Advancement (IHRA) at the University of Colombo. Generally, her research focuses on Marginalized groups /communities and its policy implications in Sri Lanka. Currently, she is continuing research based on “Reproduction of Sexual Identity and New Social Movements in Contemporary Sri Lanka” to complete her MPhil studies. Ishara was actively participated in submitting a research proposal during the COVID -19 period, focused on “Social impact of COVID – 19 in Sri Lanka” conducted by the Department of Sociology, and waiting for to implement the research.

Besides, she is working as a department coordinator in Carrier Guidance Unit (CGU) and student mentor in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna. In the past semester, she gave her active cooperation toward the success of 17th Academic Session & 16th vice chancellor’s awards, 2020 and working as a committee member of the Active citizenship circle in Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Furthermore, she coordinates several course units offered by the Department of Sociology and working as a resource person for the leadership program in the University of Peradeniya.

Achievements of Assistant Lecturers –



Ms. Lakmee Nilanka is working in the Department of Sociology as an assistant lecturer since January 2019. She successfully completed BA special degree with first class honors and won the Professor Ranaweera Banda Memorial Gold Medal for her achievements.

Currently she is reading for the MA program at NISD under the subject stream of Social Work. She took part in the “Empowerment of Disable Women” Program, conducted by the Human Right Commission in Sri Lanka. She has conducted an awareness program regarding child rights and child protection which held at SOC Children’s village in Gandara. She successfully participated in research on “the Contribution of Self-Employment in Alleviating Rural Poverty”. Currently she is taking part in the research on “Problem Related to Education of Sri Lankan Young Bhikku Community and Possible Solutions”. She is also currently a member of the editorial board for the *Vimarsha*

annual magazine published by the Department of Sociology.



Ms. Dinithi Prathibha, an assistant lecturer of the Department of Sociology has been working since January, 2018. She graduated from the University of Ruhuna. She is currently pursuing her Masters in Sociology at the University of Colombo. And she has been selected to receive the *Maulana Azad Postgraduate Scholarship* awarded annually by the Government of India. In addition, she was obtained Level 4 National Vocational Qualification in Information Technology. She has engaged in a number of academic activities such as a member of the editorial board of “Vimarsha” Student magazine, which is published annually by the Department.



Ms. BKD Lakmali represents the Department of Sociology as an assistant lecturer since January 2020. She successfully completed BA special degree with first class honor and won the Professor Ranaweera Banda Memorial Gold Medal in 2017. Currently she is reading for the MA program at the University of Ruhuna. She has been contributing to the Department of sociology utilizing knowledge of her interested areas such as Conflict Studies, Marriage and Sexuality, Social Issues, Organization Management. Currently she is participating in the research under the theme of “A sociological Study of the Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Human lives” conducted by the Department of Sociology. At the same time, she is taking part in the research on “Problems Related to Education of Sri Lankan Young Bhikku Community and Possible Solutions”. She is currently a member of the editorial board of the *Vimarsha* annual magazine published by the Department of Sociology.



Mr. Susith Nimantha joined the Department of Sociology on 06 January 2020, as a Temporary Assistant Lecturer. He completed his Bachelors in University of Colombo and currently reading his MA in Peace and Development Studies at the University of Ruhuna. In addition, he is following courses in “Climate Change in Practice” and “Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: A Pathway to Sustainable Development” from GCED online

University. He completed the online courses of UNICEF on “The Fundamentals of Digital Marketing”, “UN Cares”, “e - toolkit on gender equality” and “Child Rights and why they matter”. He contributed as a member in “Identifying problems related to education with Sri Lankan Samanera Bhikku Community” research team. He also contributed “Vimarsha” magazine of Department of Sociology as a member of the editorial panel. In 2020 he has completed his researches on “Living and working away from home: sociological inquiry on the life and work of internal migrant labourers in a hospital setting” and “Sinhala Rap Music and the Empowerment of Today’s Youth” and about to publish them.

Non-Academic Staff News –



Mr. J.H.A Manjula, as always continue to support activities of the department in many different capacities. Activities of the department have always been supported by Mr. Manjula as the management assistant of the department.



Mr. Shelton Jayalath successfully took part in a training workshop on Workplace Safety and management in university career, conducted by the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna. In addition, he successfully completed a workshop on Enhancing attitudes and Professionalism conducted by the Ministry of Skills Development and Vocational Training. Mr. Shelton was promoted to the super grade with effect from 7th April 2019.



Mr. Shelton participating in a Workshop

Workshops and Discussions –

Workshop on “academic writing and social research”

Academic research and academic writing are intertwined in that good-quality research findings can be properly communicated with the academic community. Although in some certain cases, presenting and disseminating knowledge has become problematic because of the less awareness on academic writing.



Therefore, encouraging students to engage in quality social research and aware on academic writing can bring about quality research outputs.

Understanding this timely need among university students, Sociological Organization has organized a workshop on “academic writing and social research” held on 19th December 2020. Mr. Samitha Udayanga and Mr. Upul Sanjeewa Wijepala conducted this workshop. Mr. Samitha particularly talked about “Art of Academic Writing”, and Mr. Wijepala talked about “Social Research”. This event was well-attended by university students.



Mr. Upul conducting the workshop

“Why sociology?” Interactive discussion

Sociological Association has conducted a workshop on New Subject Areas of Sociology and Career Opportunities of Sociology Graduates. This workshop was named as “Y sociology”. This workshop was conducted by Mr. Samitha Udayanga who mainly focused on emerging areas of sociology and number of opportunities can be claimed by sociologists whereas Mr. Susith Siriwardhana focused on introducing emerging subject areas of sociology.



Mr. Samitha delivering a speech on Higher education opportunities



Mr. Susith speaking about new dimensions of Sociology

Guest lecture on “freedom of education and crisis on contemporary education”

A guest lecture was organized by the sociological association on “Freedom of education and Crisis on contemporary education” on 13th February 2020 at



Senior Professor S. Amarasena delivering a lecture on "Education"

13th February 2020 at Ranaweera Banda Memorial Hall, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. This guest lecture was delivered

by Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena who is the vice-chancellor of the University of Ruhuna.

A large number of students and other academics attended the event and was integrated with an informative discussion. Importantly, Senior Professor Sujeew Amarasena specified on Freedom of Education in Sri Lanka and Crisis on Contemporary Sri Lankan Education.



Participants of the event

Guest lecture on “philosophical foundation of epistemology” organized by the sociological association.

A guest lecture on “philosophical foundation of epistemology” was organized by the sociological association, and Rev. G. Sugunasiri thero conducted the lecture. Philosophical underpinnings of social research were mainly discussed in this well-attended seminar. Integrating epistemological concerns with



Notice about the Seminar

research paradigms is a complex and difficult task for students who specialize in social sciences as they do not encounter rigorous philosophical understanding when they grasp social theories. Therefore, this guest lecture intended to provide a basic understanding about epistemological

foundation in social research.



Ven G. Sugunasiri thero delivering his speech

Students' Activities –

Participatory development programme organized by the sociological association

It is believed that working together with community would facilitate university students to employ their theoretical understandings to improve social well-being among people. With the hope of empowering laypeople to think innovatively about their development and improving social well-being, the sociological association of the University of Ruhuna has organized a participatory development programme in collaboration with Uda-Aparakka Rural Development Society and Devinuwara Divisional

Secretariat on 15th January 2020. This collaborative participatory development programme intended to empower people to think innovatively about self-awareness and their overall well-being. Moreover, a “Sramadana” campaign was also organized with this participatory development programme. This event was well attended by faculty members, laypeople and students of the University of Ruhuna. The event was facilitated by the Sociological Association.



Some photographs showing students' participatory social engagements at Uda Aparekka, Matara

Participatory action research project in Ridiyagama state house of detention

Final year students of the department of sociology planned a project to empower inmates in the state detention house at *Ridiyagama*. This actions research project was included several events not just limited to collaborative entertainment activities, counselling sessions, and participatory action events. This programme was conducted on 7th February 2020. Students in collaboration with academic staff members of the department have endeavoured to understand life experiences among inmates in the state detention house while providing an opportunity to reflect their life.



Hod, Dr. Hemantha Kumara participating in a drama performance at Ridiyagama



Students' performance at Ridiyagama Research Project



Both academics and students participating in a drama performance at Ridiyagama

Theorization



The Age of Surveillance Capitalism is a 2019 non-fiction book by Professor Shoshana Zuboff which looks at the development of digital companies like Google and Amazon, and suggests that their business models represent a new form of capitalist accumulation that she calls "surveillance capitalism". Thus, she was nicknamed as the Today's Karl Marx who vehemently criticizes the new forms of capitalism.

Workshop for undergraduates on “job prospects and scholarship opportunities”



Mr. Nimantha Gayashan, a third-year student in the department of Sociology has organized a workshop particularly for undergraduates who follow a general degree programme to aware on job opportunities and scholarship opportunities on 19th February

2020. This workshop was conducted by Mr. Samitha Udayanga and Mr. Upul Sanjeev Wijepala.



Participants of the Workshop

Annual Department Trip

Students and the academic staff members of the department went on a tour to Kandy on 22nd and 23rd February, 2020 as an extracurricular activity that elevates the social and psychological wellbeing.

Students went on a hike to Hantana Mountain, and even that was a first experience for many students. Tour was coupled with different entertaining activities.



Some captures of the department's annual trip to Kandy

Sociology in a time of Holocaust

by

Emeritus Professor Sarath Amarasinghe &

Mr. Samitha Udayanga

Although elementary principles of understanding human behaviour in group relations of society have not been supposedly changed from its initial form, the framework of analysis in sociology has been changed accommodating constant dynamics of the society in global and local levels. Theoretical eurocentrism in sociology has been first accepted scientific and deeply grounded, but now it has been greatly criticized claiming the importance on focusing contextual specificities as suggested later on by Southern theorists who assert on ground realities with regard to human behaviour in group relationships (Connell, 2011; Patel, 2017). More than ever before, now relevance and importance of sociology have become prominent since the impact of societal behaviour on entire social order has been well recognized.

Encountering several dynamics during the past century, some sociologists have recognized that structure of society can be restructured in line with the interplay between agency and social structure (Bourdieu, 1990; Giddens, 1984), that even can have a significant impact on both modes of thought that concerns on cognitive orientation and code of conduct focusing apparent human behaviour. Despite different interpretations based on a variety of theoretical perspectives, all agree on the dynamic nature of society and its constant endeavour on combating instabilities while establishing relative stability and solidarity in society. Zygmunt Bauman very clearly captured this very phenomenon in that contemporary social structure and organization are characterized by inevitable impermanence and constant risks of different kinds (Bauman, 2000).

Beyond what they have proclaimed, some recent social philosophers conceived several different

essential elements that can influence social behaviour, such as emotions, media and unpredictable emergencies (Nussbaum, 2001a; Zizek, 2007). Martha Nussbaum has recognized the importance of cognitive orientation including emotions even within the so-called rational realms (Nussbaum, 2001b), in that social dynamics are predominantly affected by positional emotions suffused with hidden rules of human social behaviour. In her compelling argument on “The Fragility of Goodness”, Nussbaum has argued that Fragility, the very core of the social structure and human agency can be the driving force of contemporary social behaviour, consequently “social structure” and “Social organization” can be changed even beyond recognition as witnessed during the coronavirus outbreak (Nussbaum, 2001a). Resonating the idea of “social dynamism”, Salvo Zizek like radical Marxists have recognized the new frontiers of the delineation on social solidarity and social liquidity while understanding the new global social order in which “unpredictability, impermanence and instability” become essential characteristics (Zizek, 2001). Shoshana Zuboff, moreover, understood the holocaust behind the age of surveillance capitalism where human rights become annulled and behavioral changes have been attributed to unconscious modifications (Zuboff, 2019).

The twenty-first century is witnessing a global fragility and uncertainty, as very clearly emphasized by the prevalence of coronavirus pandemic in 2020. Entire global social order has destructed apparently during the coronavirus pandemic, despite the promise of modernity, rationality, empiricism. This very challenge call sociologists for a new venture toward understanding, interpreting, reflecting and responding to unpredictable issues and challenges might encounter by societies in the future.

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On going Research Activities –

A Sociological Study of the Impact of CoVid-19 Pandemic on Sri Lanka is a research that focuses on major social changes occurred in the Sri Lankan society owing to the coronavirus pandemic, 2020. The objective of the study is to “identify the social impact of coronavirus on Sri Lankan society”. Some of the specific objectives are identifying the impact of CoVid-19 on human health, understanding the impact of this pandemic on the education in Sri Lanka, studying the role of social media and electronic devices among individuals during the pandemic situation.

Identify Problems Related to Education among Samanera Bhikku Community in Sri Lanka Recently, the department have started a research to identify issues of *Piriwena* Education in Sri Lanka. Importantly, how young Buddhist monks reflect their disposition within the Buddhist community alongside the mainstream society has been given considerable attention in this research.

Students socially engaged:

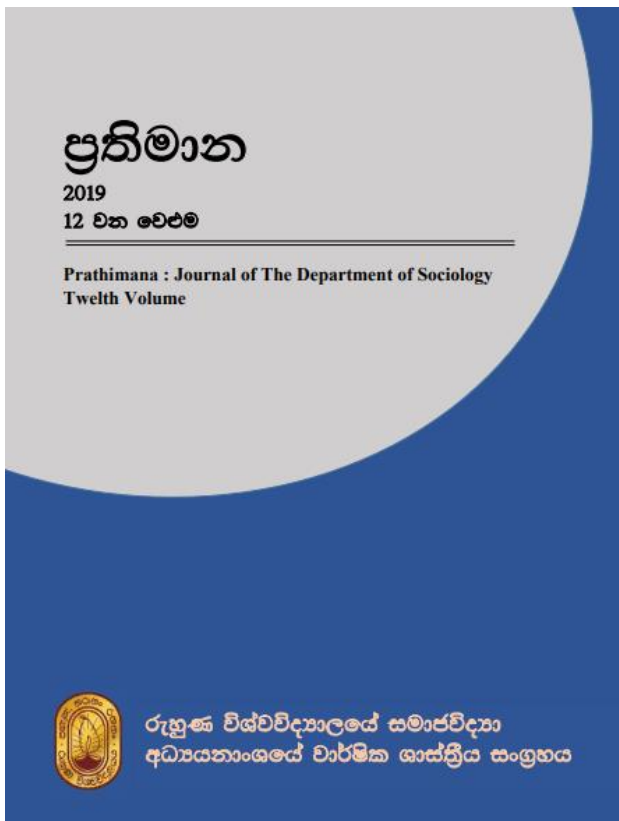
Under the theme of 'Leadership, Innovation & Entrepreneurship', the annual dialogue was held in 26th February 2020 in Colombo, Sri Lanka with a participation of over 300 young leaders from across the country together with key public and private sector stakeholders. Six Students of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences were privileged to participate in this program. Lahiru Zoysa and Akila de Silva, from the department of Sociology were selected for this program and were actively took part in the programme.



Mr. Akila and Mr. Lahiru with other students who took part in the programme.

PRATHIMANA: JOURNAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Prathimana Volume 12, the 2019 issue of the Annual Academic Journal of the Department of Sociology has published on May 2020. This time the journal was edited by Mr. Suranjith Gunasekara, Ms. N. Ruwanpathirana and Ms. S. Edirisinghe. *Prathimana* journal aimed at disseminating new knowledge that emerges through research carried out specifically in the field of sociology and generally in a diverse group of social sciences. The seven papers on different themes that were published in this volume are meant to help explorers of new knowledge, researchers, and general readers in expanding their awareness. They have been reviewed by a panel of veteran academics from the field of sociology and the other related disciplines.



Farewell to Professor Sarath Amarasinghe

In 2019, we said goodbye to our esteemed academic member Professor Sarath, who has been a pioneering staff member of the department. As an academician he has contributed in many ways to the development of the discipline of Sociology and to uplift the status of the University. He developed the Sociology stream into a degree programme at the University of Ruhuna and was entrusted with the responsibility of introducing a complete syllabus for an honors degree in Sociology. Once, he was the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Coordinator of the Soft Skills Committee of the University, Director of the Distance and Continuing Education Unit of the University, Head of the Department of Sociology for two consecutive terms. Senior Professor Amarasinghe retired from service in 2018 and still he is continuing his academic contribution by serving as an academician and a researcher for many institutions including the University of Ruhuna as well as the society at large. The University has decided to award Professor Emeritus to Professor Sarath Amarasinghe in 2020.



Professor Sarath Amarasinghe was awarded the Emeritus Professorship by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna

Promotions and achievements of the faculty --

- Prof. Sarath Amarasinghe – Conferment of Emeritus Professorship
 - Prof. Upali Pannilage – Promoted as the Professor in Sociology and completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Development Studies at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences
 - Dr. Hemantha Kumara - Awarded the PhD in Sociology 2019.
 - Dr. P.R Ekanayake – Awarded the PhD in Sociology in 2020.
 - Mr. A.M.A. Suranjith Gunasekara – Promoted to the Senior Lecturer Grade 1.
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Diploma Awarding Ceremony of the Diploma Course in Psychological Counselling

Diploma awarding of the Diploma course in psychological counselling conducted by the Department of Sociology was held on 15th February 2020 at the auditorium of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology. Vice Chancellor, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena participated as the chief guest of this event, and Dr. Dhanesh Karunanayke, Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Peradeniya delivered the guest speech on “The role of a psychological counselor in Sri Lanka”.



Some photographs of the Diploma Awarding ceremony-2020

Gallery –



Left to Right: Student, Staff and community partnership Activities (First two figures); Final year students with staff members @ Ridiyagama

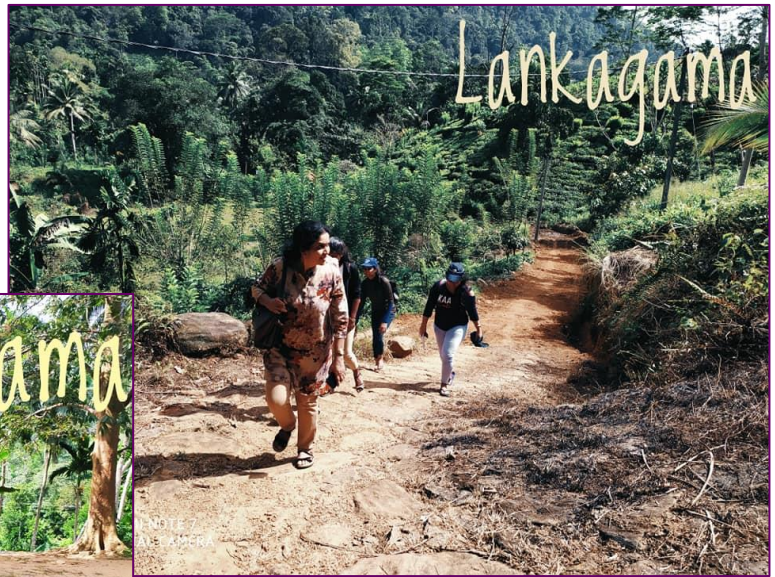
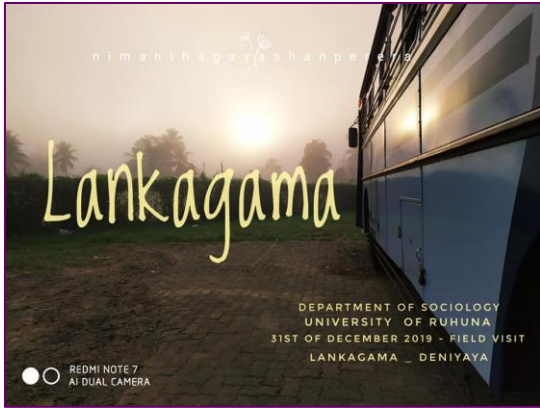


Left: Mr. Upul and a student at a workshop Center: Third Year students taking part in a debate Right: Students participating a workshop organized by Sociological Association



Left: Dr. Hemantha at a conference, India Center: Dr. Pushpa and Dr. Hemantha taking part in a conference Right: Drama performance at MCIMSD 2020.

Field Research at Lankagama Village – December, 2019



 Dr. Pushpa and students going to a highland village in Lankagama Village

Some photographs at Lankagama Village 



 Some third year students at a small shop in Lankagama



 An ancient house in Lankagama Village