

## *Greetings from the HoD,*

The Department of Sociology, is one of the departments in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna which has been progressing and many notable achievements have been recorded since the beginning of it as a separate department in 1978. No doubt that the department will definitely lead the faculty to its excellence. We have had a big push on developing the department by our former Heads and staff members and can already see the students embracing new challenges and striving for high academic achievement with extracurricular activities. While the coronavirus pandemic has had many disruptive effects, we have continued our academic and extracurricular activities for students via online and maintained our interactions with alumni and other groups in all possible forms, for the betterments of our students.

Many academic and extracurricular highlights have already taken place this year including many research activities, guest lectures, and students' activities under the Sociological Association etc. Further, As per my direction, establishing of Professor Ranaweera Banda Center for Sociological Research, Innovation and Social Development (CSRISD), creating a website and YouTube channel for the Sociological Association, establishing three alumni associations for the Diploma in Psychological Counselling, M.A in Sociology and Graduates of the Department of Sociology can be considered as the new steps towards enhance the quality of department. These activities published in the newsletter are not sufficient to prove my claim that the Department of Sociology is progressing in a significant way. In

this respect, all credits and thanks should go to the dedicated staff and their team work as well as to the beloved students which reminds me of the saying "If you want to go fast, walk alone. If you want to go far, walk together". Also, publishing the online newsletter and shifting to a digital platform will provide a more environmentally sustainable and cost-efficient way for our department to communicate with you and to get your valuable ideas and comments to enhance our abilities further.

In this backdrop, we will share with you a summary of our news biannually which will give you a greater insight into various activities carried out by our staff members and the students particularly under the Sociological Association of the department. Finally, it is with great pleasure I thank the editors for their commitment in editing this newsletter and I hope that this newsletter will serve the purpose of reflecting all activities of the department and inspire others to do their best.

Wishing you all the best.



**Dr. A.M.A.S Gunasekara**  
**Head**  
**Department of Sociology**



## Welcome to the Department of Sociology

<https://www.hss.ruh.ac.lk/index.php/study-programmes/departments/sociology>



## Sociological Association

<https://www.hss.ruh.ac.lk/socass/>



## YouTube Channel - Sociological Association

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9uP24vBmzf3Ktkarqvm4rA>



## Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/සයිබර්-අවකාශයේ-අනෙස-Sky-In-The-cyberspace-cyberspace-1227101287440495>

## Faculty

**Dr. A.M.A.S Gunasekara - Head of the Department**

**Prof. Upali Pannilage**

**Dr. Pushpa Ekanayake**

**Dr. Gayathri Wijesundera**

**Dr. Wijekoon Banda**

**Dr. N.V.G.A Hemantha Kumara**

**Dr. P.K.M. Dissanayake**

**Dr. Dushmanthi Silva**

**Dr. Thilak Wijesundera**

**Mr. Upul Sanjeewa Wijepala**

**Mr. Samitha Udayanga**

**Ms. Ishara Wanniarachchi**

**Ms. Nirosha Ruwanpathirana**

**Ms. B.K.D Lakmali**

**Ms. Ruvini Rajapaksha**

**Ms. Kaushalya Piyumali**

**Ms. Rashmika Kumarasiri**

*Newsletter published biannually by the Department of Sociology, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka*

Please send comments and news via email to:

[newslettersocuor@gmail.com](mailto:newslettersocuor@gmail.com)

Editors

**Mr. Upul Sanjeewa Wijepala**

**Ms. Ishara Wanniarachchi**

## Faculty News –



### Dr. A.M.A.S. Gunasekara

Recently, he was awarded the PhD Degree at the University of Ruhuna (Partially studied in the Norwegian University of Life Science and COSMAT in Pakistan). The title of doctoral thesis is “Civil War in Sri Lanka during the Period from 1983 to 2009 and Reconciliation Process: Role of Memory and Interpretation in Ethnic Relations”. As a head of the department, now he has planned to introduce a new degree program and two diploma courses for the department. Also many academic and extracurricular activities for the students are being implemented. Further, he has implemented different academic forums via online to participate students to enhance their knowledge of the different themes particularly during the Covid 19 pandemic.

In addition to his administrative responsibilities, he also engages number of research projects, different forums to deliver lectures, different community based activities, build link between the department with different institutions, create opportunities for students while working with different sectors to share their experiences and expand knowledge. Also, he was invited as a resource person for the discussion on fields of social movements and nonviolent resistance, bringing together a range of studies focusing on protest movements related to black history organized by the American Corner, Matara - US Embassy. Further, he leads to continue academic and other activities while overcoming challenges during the pandemic situation.

**"Raise Awareness to End Early and Forced Marriages in Sri Lanka"**

**Discussion Themes**

- Physical, mental and emotional consequences
- Socio, cultural and religious aspects
- Legal framework
- Policy recommendations

**Panelists**

- Ms. Libani Gunawardena
- Dr. M.H. Mahipala
- Dr. A.M.A.S. Gunasekara
- Dr. Harini Arambasinghe
- Ms. Shireeni Samarathilaka
- Chandana Thilakaratne

**Date : 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021**  
**Time : IST 8:00 PM**

**Partners:** UNICEF, ISRCY, etc.



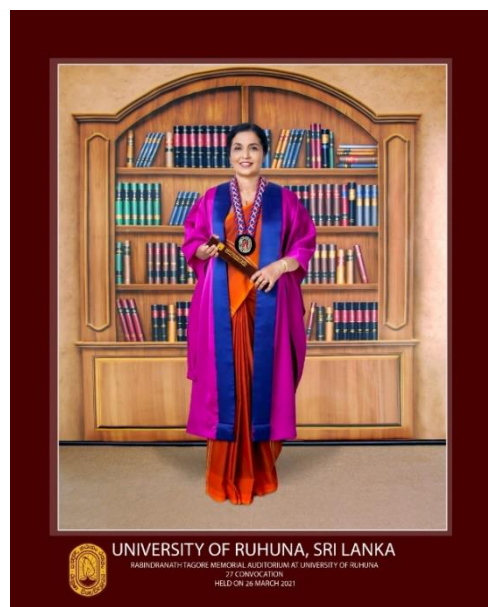
### Professor Upali Pannilage

Currently, he is the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Besides, his administrative responsibilities, he contributes in different ways to develop the department and to establish an academic culture while engaging in different academic activities as the professor in Sociology. Also he contributes as a member of the editorial board of the “Prathimana” Journal of the Department.



### Dr. P.R. Ekanayake

She has been enjoying a research on medical anthropology while her sabbatical leave for a year. Further, she was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Medical Sociology at the 27<sup>th</sup> convocation of University of Ruhuna. She serves as a member of editorial board of the Journal of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and a committee member of Students’ Welfare Fund, Students’ Grievances Committee and Health Committee as well.





### Dr. Gayathri Wijesundara

During the past six months, Dr. Gayathri Wijesundara has engaged with many academic activities. She was invited as a resource person to conduct many guest lectures and T.V programs organized by the University and other institutions to share her Sociological knowledge and experiences. Further, she has published several research papers in conferences and articles in newspapers. Besides that, she serves as a senior treasurer of the Sociological Association of the department of Sociology. Further, she actively engages to expand the network of the department of Sociology between other universities and institutions. Mostly, she is supporting to overcome students’ psychological issues and any another socio- economic challenges during the pandemic situation.



### Dr. T.M. Wijekoon Banda

Currently he is on sabbatical leave for a year. Dr. Wijekoon Banda contributes as a member of the editorial board of the “Prathimana” Journal of the Department. Meanwhile, he is a co-researcher of the research project titled “Promoting People's Well-being and Social Harmony through Effective Water Governance: A Sociological Study on Participatory Governance of the Mahaweli System in Sri Lanka.



### Dr. N.V.G.A. Hemantha Kumara

Dr. N.V.G.A Hemantha Kumara is the former head of the department for three years from, 2017 to 2020. He was invited as the guest speaker of the International Women’s Day Celebration in Hambantota District Chamber of Commerce (HDCC) on 09<sup>th</sup> March 2021 under the theme of "Gender, Family, Marriage and Balancing with the Business life”. He was invited as a guest speaker in another International Women’s Day Celebrations organized by Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka. The program was broadcasted live on the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation's 'Ruhunu Sevaya'. Further, he participated as the guest speaker of the book launching ceremony “ Panhiden Eha Minisun Athara” which was held on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 at the auditorium of University of Ruhuna.

**The Wings of Brotherhood**  
**" STRENGTHENING BLOOMING BUDS "**

Psychology Advisory Series, Exclusively Organized for The Arts Stream Students of Taxila Central College.

**THE FIRST EXPANSION**

**04th JUNE, 2021**  
**04 PM ONWARDS**

**Dr. C. Gayathri Wijesundara**  
 Senior Lecturer  
 University of Ruhuna  
 PhD, MSc (Kelaniya), BA (Colombo)  
 Dip. In Counseling  
 Dip. in Psychology (IPS)

zoom  
Join us Online

**Sociological Association of the University of Ruhuna**

In addition, he serves as the coordinator (Academic Year 2019/2020) of M.A in Sociology Degree Program, 06<sup>th</sup> Batch, conducted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. He teaches as a visiting lecturer in Diploma Course for the Public Health Inspectors, conducted by Ministry of Health, Provincial Health Training Centre, Galle, Diploma Course in Psychological Counseling, conducted by

Distance and Continuing Education Unit, University of Ruhuna and MA in Sociology Degree Program, Faculty of Graduate Studies. He is one of the leading persons in the field of Counseling Psychology. He is following the Master of Buddhist Counseling (MA in BAC) at Post Graduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Kelaniya. Currently, he is the editor - in - chief of *Prathimana* journal published by the Department of Sociology and team member of the research committee on the Eradication and Empowerment of Rural Poverty in Kamburupitiya AGA's Division conducted by the collaboration of Department of Sociology and University of Ruhuna. Despite his busy schedule, he was able to publish some research papers in reputed journals.



*International Women's Day celebration with HDCC*



*International Women's Day Celebration- Live broadcasting, 'Ruhunu Sevaya'.*



### **Dr. P.K.M. Dissanayake**

She was awarded the PhD degree from the University of Kelaniya in the field of Sociology of Aging. She serves as the coordinator of the M.A degree program in Sociology and a visiting lecturer in the diploma course in Psychological Counselling. Further, she actively engages in several research projects conducting by the department and holds many responsibilities in the faculty level as well.



### **Dr. Dushmanthi Silva**

Dr. Dushmanthi Silva is continuing her academic activities with new research experiences as the principle supervisor of the research project conducted by the St. Mary National School, Hambantota under the School Research Projects Competition (SRPC) 2020/21, organized by National Science Foundation. The topic of the research is "Psycho-Social Impact on current education system on school children". Meanwhile, she has published a chapter titled "An Analysis of the Role of Street-Level Bureaucrats in Implementing the National Labor Migration Policy in Sri Lanka" in the book titled "Policy Response, Local Service Delivery, and Governance in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka" published by Palgrave, Switzerland.



### **Dr. P.M.T.C. Wijesundara**

Dr. Wijesundara gave oath in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka as an attorney - at- Law on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

He serves as a member of the editorial committee of *Prathimana* journal published by the Department of Sociology. Furthermore, he presented a research paper titled “Need of sexual counselling in Sri Lankan family context” at the 18<sup>th</sup> Academic Sessions and 17<sup>th</sup> Vice- Chancellor’s Awards which was held at Faculty of Medicine, Karapitiya, University of Ruhuna.



*Giving oath as an attorney - at- Law*



### **Mr. Upul Sanjeewa Wijepala**

Mr. Upul Sanjeewa submitted his PhD thesis to the Pondicherry University, India under the broader area of Sociology of Irrigation. Currently, he serves as the coordinator of the Diploma Course in Psychological Counselling and visiting lecturer for the M.A degree program of Peace and Development Studies at the department. He also contributes as a member of the editorial board of the “*Prathimana*” Journal of the Department and faculty representative of the Ethical Review Committee, Faculty of Medicine, University

of Ruhuna. Further, he is a co-researcher of the research project titled “Promoting People's Well-being and Social Harmony through Effective Water Governance: A Sociological Study on Participatory Governance of the Mahaweli System in Sri Lanka.



### **Mr. Samitha Udayanga**

Mr. Samitha Udayanga has found the past few months including two semesters, one has concluded while another started afresh as challenging in many ways due to the emergencies occurred in contingent with covid-19 despite being uninterrupted academic and research activities. With the final year students, Samitha this time travelled to Angunukolawewa primary school to implement a project on alleviating learning poverty among students in peripheral schools in Sri Lanka.

Alongside teaching Sociology of Religion, Political Sociology, and Project Planning, he has been continuing his collaborative research on different themes such as early childhood care and education, women and poverty alleviation in rural Sri Lanka. He presented two conference papers, one on early childhood care and education in disadvantaged communities and another on COVID-19 experiences among urban dwellers in Sri Lanka. He was also appointed as an editorial board member of the Journal of Meghalaya Anthropology in India. Further, he was granted the faculty research scholarship to conduct a research on food sovereignty and challenges in Sri Lanka in April, 2021. While winning a scholarship from Swiss Federation, he was selected to take part in a three weeks’ academic workshop on “Sustainable Development and Local Initiatives”. During the past six months, he managed to receive a place in Sri Lankan Journal of Social Science to publish his research findings on “Lay Reflections of Health Experiences among Sinhalese Buddhist people”.

Together with some other research members, he visited rural areas of Sri Lanka to plan a project for alleviating multidimensional poverty among women. One of the mind charming endeavors he engaged was to participate in a tree anting event organized by the Sociological Association.



*Participating of tree anting event*



*Collecting data of the research on alleviating multidimensional poverty among women*

southern Sri Lanka”. She is continuing her postgraduate studies under this research project at the Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Peradeniya. She has a keen interest for the field of Psychology and Counseling and she completed a Higher National Diploma in Counseling Psychology (HDip in counseling Psychology) with a merit pass at the Institute of Human Resource and Advance (IHRA) at University of Colombo.

Besides, she teaches as a visiting lecturer in Diploma Course in Psychological Counseling, conducted by the Distance and Continuous Education Unit and serves as a student counsellor at the faculty. Further, she presented a research paper titled “Knowledge and Attitude Towards Pre-Marital Counselling Among Newly Married Couples” in the 18<sup>th</sup> Academic Sessions and 17<sup>th</sup> Vice- Chancellor’s Awards which was held at the Faculty of Medicine, Karapitiya, University of Ruhuna. Furthermore, as the Department Representative she facilitates the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and Carrier Guidance Unit (CGU).



*Women’s Day Celebrations organized by the Women’s Development Federation in Hambantota*



**Ms. Ishara Wanniarachchi**

Ms. Ishara Wanniarachchi was invited as a guest speaker of Women’s Day Celebrations organized by the Women’s Development Federation in Hambantota district on 08<sup>th</sup> March 2021 under the the theme of “Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world”. She was awarded a scholarship funded by SEDRIC research project on the theme of “Impact of development on environmental issues in coastal communities in



### **Ms. Niroscha Ruwanpathirana**

Ms. Niroscha serves as a student counsellor of the Faculty. As a committee member of the YouTube Program in the University, she gave her fullest cooperation to increase the knowledge and raise awareness among the students of GCE (O/L). Currently, she is working as a module writer of the online Diploma course in Human Rights and Social Inclusion. She is also working as a member of the editorial board of the “Prathimana” Journal and the book titled “Social Science Researchers- Qualitative Research Approaches” which is going to be published by the Department of Sociology in 2022. Apart from that, she is a member of the supervisory committee and main organizing committee of the inter-university students’ competition is organized by the Sociological Association. She was a member of the constitution revision committee of the Department of Sociology and staff committee member of the student’s internship program.

In addition, she serves as the Treasurer of the 6th Arts Students’ Annual Sessions (RASAS) which is going to be held on 15th October 2021. She is also an active member of the Sociology Alumni Association of the University of Colombo (SAAUC) & the Bar Association of Sri Lanka. Further, she is actively working as a member of several research teams including alleviating multidimensional poverty in rural Sri Lanka through women empowerment, Socio-Cultural, Environmental and Behavioural risk factors associated with cancer and implications of cancer incidence in Matara area.

She also presented several research papers including “COVID- 19 Pandemic, University Education and Role of Librarians” at NILIS Research Symposium 2020, University of Colombo; “Sociological Analysis of Gender and

*Domestic Violence with special reference to Wanathawilluwa D.S Division” at the 4th International Virtual Conference on Future of Women and People’s expectations and official communication of the Ministry of Health during the COVID-19 period organized by Department of Sociology, University of Colombo.*

Further, she won a scholarship and successfully completed the online certificate program on Knowledge 2 Action SDG Academy in three weeks organized by the Swiss universities cluster of collaboration (CLOC) knowledge 2 Action in South Asia.



*Participating the program in Angunukolawewa School*



*Participating the program on Knowledge 2 Action SDG Academy*



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## Highlights of Assistant Lecturers



### Ms. B.K.D Lakmali

Ms. Lakmali is reading for her Masters Degree in Peace & Development studies at the University of Ruhuna. Further, she engages in several research projects including “Social impact of Leptospirosis” and “Assessment of impact of the Covid-19 on fisheries sector in Sri Lanka - 2020” conducted by the department of Sociology and the University.

In addition, she has joined for ongoing research projects conducted by the Professor Ranaweerabanda Center for Sociological Research, Innovation and Social Development (CSRISD) attached to the Department of Sociology. She also published a journal article titled “*The efficacy of providing counselling and psychological support to employee engagement at the workplace*” in the Vidyodaya Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Besides, she presented a paper on “*Quarantine and social isolation during the Covid-19: Sociological perspective*” at the 18<sup>th</sup> Academic Session in 2020 and “*People's expectations and official communication of the ministry of health during the Covid-19 period*” at the Annual Symposium of the Department of Sociology, University Colombo, 2021.



### Ms. H.V. Kaushalya Piyumali

Ms. Kaushalya engages in several research projects including “*Social impact of leptospirosis*” and “*People's Expectations and Official Communication of the Ministry of Health during the Covid-19 Period*”. In addition, she also presented several research papers including “*Impact of the Family Environment on Children Attempting Suicide*”; “*Quarantine and Social Isolation during the Covid-19: Sociological Perspective*”, and “*Social Resilience in the Face of Climate Change: Landslides and Flood*”. Further, she is an active organizing committee member of the “*A New Dawn*”- Inter-university Students’ Competition, organized by the Sociological Association of the Department of Sociology in collaboration with the Cultural Centre of the University of Ruhuna. In addition, she serves as a mentor voluntarily for training on combating online hate speech and sexist content by Sri Lankan Unites since August 2020.



### Ms. Ruwini Rajapaksha

Ms. Ruwini Rajapaksha has successfully completed B.A (special) Degree in Sociology, with a First class honours from the University of Colombo. She won the *Suji Kolabahewa Hettiarachchi award for the Best Student in Contemporary Social Theory* from the same University. Currently, she is reading her Masters Degree in Sociology at the University of Colombo. And also, she is following the courses of Child

Psychology & Child Protection and Social Development & Social Planning at the Sri Lanka Foundation. Further, she presented an abstract titled “*The Influence of Social Media Propaganda of “Corona Paniya” on the Distortion of Risk Society: A Sociological Reading*” at the Annual Research Symposium, University of Colombo. She also worked as a research assistant, under the theme of “Improving Smallholder Livelihoods and Nutrition: An Evaluation of WFP’s Nutrition-Sensitive Food for Assets Program in Sri Lanka” conducted by the Department of Nutrition/ Medical Research Institute, World Food Program (WFP) and International Food Policy Institute (IFPI). In addition, she actively contributed to create the Web Page & YouTube Channel of the Sociological Association in the Department.



### **Ms. S.K. Rashmika Sandamini**

Ms. Kumarasiri completed a B.A (special) Degree in Sociology with a Second-Class honour from the University of Ruhuna. Currently, she is following a course of Child Psychology and Child Protection at the Sri Lanka Foundation. Along with she studying Social Planning and Development at Sri Lanka Foundation. She presented an abstract on “*People’s expectations and official communication of the ministry of health during the COVID-19 19 period*” at the Annual Research Symposium, University of Colombo. Further, she actively contributed to create the Web Page & YouTube Channel of the Sociological Association in the Department. In addition, she supports to create a data base for graduate students of the Department of Sociology. Besides, she serves as a mentor voluntarily for training on combating online hate speech and sexist content by Sri Lankan Unites since August 2020.

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### ***Promotions and achievements of the members***

- ✚ **Dr. Pushpa Ekanayake** - Awarded the PhD in Sociology with effect from 01<sup>st</sup> November 2017.
- ✚ **Dr. A.M.A. Suranjith Gunasekara** - Awarded the PhD in Sociology with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.
- ✚ **Dr. P.K.M Diassanayake** - Awarded the PhD in Sociology with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020.
- ✚ **Dr. Tilak Wijesundara** - Promoted to the Senior Lecturer Grade -1 with effect from 03<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.

## Department Activities

### Department Induction Program

The department induction program was held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 1.00 pm - 2.30 pm through online. The main objective of this program was to introduce the staff members and the academic program as well as the extracurricular activities of the students under the Sociological Association to the newly joined students in this year. Dr. A.M.A.S Gunasekara, the Head of the Department was welcomed the students and Professor Upali Pannilage and Dr. N.VG.A Hemantha Kumara was addressed the audience. Mr. Upul Sanjeeva Wijepala introduced the academic program and the sociological association through a Video presentation. Finally, Mr. Samitha Udayanga addressed the audience to explain the exam procedure in the faculty.



*Introducing staff members and the academic program*

### Welcoming the new batches 2021 / 2021

We welcomed our both new batches to the sociology special degree program and sociology honors degree program on 16<sup>th</sup>, June 2021. Due to the prevailing pandemic situation, this program was conducted via online. In this program, there were 128 students from 1000 level for Sociology honors degree program and 62 students from 2000 Level for Sociology special degree program. The main objective of this program

was to welcome the new batches to the department and introduce the academic staff to the students.



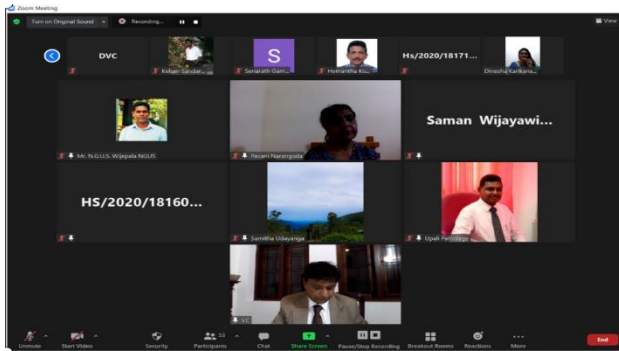
*Welcoming new batches to the Department*

### Prof. Ranaweera Banda Memorial Lecture

There was a special memorial lecture on the commemoration program of late Professor Ranaweera Banda on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 under the topic of “*The Role of Media during the Covid - 19 Pandemic*”. Prof. L. Tudor Weerasinghe, Department of Mass Media, Sri Palee Campus, University of Colombo was invited as the guest speaker of the event. Dr. A.M.A.S Gunasekara, head of the Department welcomed the audience. Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, the Vice- Chancellor of the University participated as the chief guest for this occasion. Further, Prof. Upali pannilage, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Prof. E.P.S Chandana, Deputy Vice- Chancellor of the University addressed the gathering.



*Delivering the guest speech by Prof. Tudor Weerasinghe*



*Addressing the audience by the Vice – Chancellor*

## ***A New Dawn - අලුත් උදෑසනක්: The Inter-University Students' Competition - 2021***

The Sociological Association of the Department of Sociology has organized “A New Dawn”- the inter-university Students’ Competition in collaboration with the Cultural Centre of the University of Ruhuna. This competition consists of eighteen (18) distinctive events and open for undergraduates from all the UGC approved universities of Sri Lanka. The entries for the competition are accepted in all three languages of Sinhala, Tamil and English. This program was planned under the guidance and advice of the Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice - Chancellor of the University. Further, Dr. A.M.A.S Gunasekara, Head of the Department leads the program with the support of all academic members and the students of the department.



## ***Professor Ranaweerabanda Center for Sociological Research, Innovation and Social Development (CSRISD) at the Department of Sociology***

The Center for Social Research, Innovation and Social development CSRISD would facilitates students, academic staff and researchers to evidenced-based-innovative thinking to intervene social policy making process and proceeding social development. The establishment of this center has been acknowledged by the 358<sup>th</sup> senate meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021. This is going to be the pioneering and dedicated institute for research on sociology, social policy and cultural anthropology at the university of Ruhuna. Mr. Samitha Udayanga was appointed by the department of sociology as its first coordinator.

## ***Launching ceremony of “Wings of Brotherhood”***

The book “Wings of Brotherhood” (සමන්විත ජීවිතයන්), a collection of students’ experience, based on a field research in Jaffna was launched on 08<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 at the faculty auditorium. This event was organized by the Department of Sociology and the Sociological Association. This was edited by Dr. A.M.A.S Gunasekara and Mr. Susith Nimantha Siriwardane. Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna graced the event as the Chief Guest and he launched the E-copies to the University website. Distinguished guests including Professor Upali Pannilage, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Mr. Nimal Hettiarachchi, Librarian (acting) of the University of Ruhuna and other academic, non - academic and students participated to this event. The key note speech was delivered under the

topic of “Modern State and Ethnicity: The Problem of Identity Politics” by Dr. Darshana Liyanage, Head, Department of Sinhala, University of Ruhuna.



*Handing over the first copy of the book to the Vice - Chancellor*



*Distinguished guests of the event*

## *Research Activities*

### *Symposium on “Responsibility of media in strengthening the battle against COVID 19”*

Department of Sociology in collaboration with some other local and international universities held a symposium on “Responsibility of media in strengthening the battle against covid -19” on 19<sup>th</sup>, March 2021 at the auditorium of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences and Technology. Ms. Ishara Wanniarachchi was the Department Coordinator of this event. The main purpose of this symposium was to unveil the findings of the researches for the attention of policy makers and journalists in Southern Province. Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, the Vice Chancellor of the University was invited as the chief guest for this occasion. Distinguished guests including Prof. E.P.S Chandana, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof. Upali Pannilage, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. A.M.A.S Gunasekara, Head of the Department of Sociology and other academic staff members of the university participated in this event. Majority of the participants and the research collaborators participated in this event via online due to the prevailing pandemic situation..



*Welcome speech  
By  
Head of the Department*



*Distinguished guests and journalists*



### *Research on Knowledge and perception of the general public towards the COVID-19 vaccine*

The Department of Sociology in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Institute of Research and Development (IRD) conducted a research on Knowledge and perception of the general public towards the COVID-19 vaccine. The survey was conducted in February 2021 with 471 adults who had not taken Covid -19 vaccines.

#### *Team members of Department of Sociology;*

Dr. A.M.A.S Gunasekara - Head, Department of Sociology.

Ms. Ishara Wanniarachchi – Lecturer, Department of Sociology.

#### *Team members of Ministry of Health;*

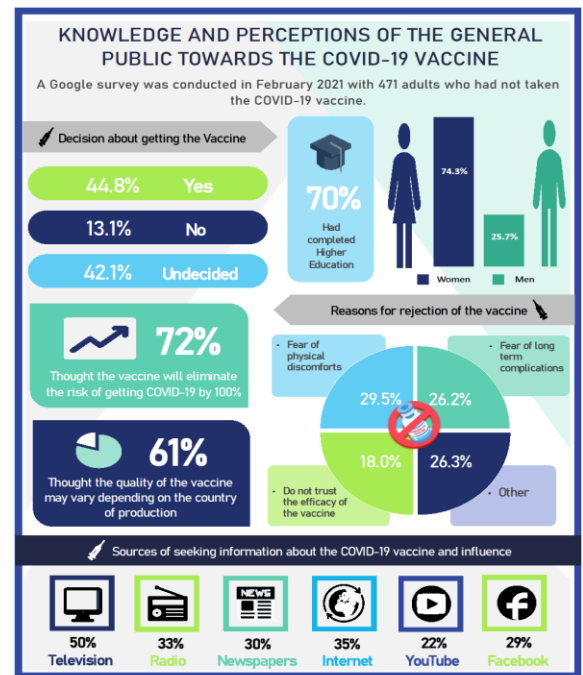
Dr. Amila Chandrasiri - Honorary Fellow - University of Melbourne, Former Consultant Community Physician (Acting) Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka

#### *Team members of Institute of Research and Development;*

Prof. Athula Sumathipala - Professor of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, Keele University

Mr. Lasith Dissanayake – Research Assistant, Institute of Research and Development

Ms. Sameeha Jabir - Research Assistant, Institute of Research and Development.



*Infographic poster of the study*

## Activities of the Sociological Association

The Sociological Association facilitates Sociological research and student centered activities to motivate undergraduates to engage in research works and promotes network of communication to all who are interested in the discipline. In this backdrop, the Sociological Association conducted many workshops, discussions, and lecture series to enhance undergraduates' knowledge and skills. However, during the pandemic situation it has been organized several events while focusing challenges created by the pandemic and to develop coping skills for overcoming psycho - socio issues.

රුහුණ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ සමාජවිද්‍යා සංගමය සහ සමාජවිද්‍යා අධ්‍යයනාංශය මගින් සංවිධානය කරනු ලබන මාර්ගගත දේශන මාලාවේ දෙවන දේශනය

කෝවිඩ් 19 සහ සමාජය :  
කෝවිඩ් 19 වසංගතයේ විකේතන සහ එහි සමාජ බලපෑම

**COVID 19 and Society :**  
COVID 19 Pandemic and its Social Impact

ප්‍රධාන අමතරව ප්‍රවීණ අමතරව  
උපකුලපති  
රුහුණ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය

Meeting ID : 679 4252 3210  
Passcode : Covid@2021

7 January 2021 16:00-18:00 (GMT+5)

**THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATION**

15 වන දින හැදෑරීම  
භාෂාව, විවිධත්වය සහ සන්නිවේදනය  
Language, Diversity & Communication

2021 ජූනි 28 ප.ව. 05 සිට 07 දක්වා  
මල් රාජි වත්තිආරච්චි  
Malraj Wanniarachchi  
Sociologist / Author

Sociological Association, University of Ruhuna

රුහුණ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ සමාජවිද්‍යා සංගමය හා සමාජවිද්‍යා අධ්‍යයනාංශය මගින් සංවිධානය කරනු ලබන මාර්ගගත දේශන මාලාවේ අවසන් දේශනය

**අවසන් දේශනය**  
විද්‍යාත්මක පැහැදිලි කිරීම  
නව කෙටිකථා සහ කථා ජූර්නල සංගීත සම්මිතිය හැටිලි

**ආරාධිත දේශක :**  
වෛද්‍ය වමිසා නෙල්සන්  
University of Colombo  
MBBS, (Colombo)  
Pg.D. Applied Sociology  
Pg.D. Reproductive Health  
Pg.D. Counseling & Psychosocial Work

2021 ජූනි මස 07  
ප.ව.05 සිට ප.ව.07 දක්වා

සමාජවිද්‍යා සංගමය හා සමාජවිද්‍යා අධ්‍යයනාංශය-රුහුණ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය

**RESEARCH ABSTRACT**

**How to Write an Abstract**

Presented by :  
Mr. K.A. Samitha Udayanga  
Lecturer, Department of Sociology,  
University of Ruhuna  
Coordinator,  
Prof. Ratnasooriya Center for Sociological Research,  
Innovation and Social Development

Date: 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.  
Session Time: Friday, 11 June 2021

Session Objective:  
• To develop undergraduate's research writing skills.

Sociological Association of the University of Ruhuna

සමහර කේන්ද්‍රීය අර්බුදකාරී සමය තුළ විභවිද්‍යාල ශිෂ්‍ය ප්‍රජාව මුහුණදෙන මානසික ව්‍යාකූලතාවයන් පිළියක් ලෙස,

**"ජීවිතයට සමාජවිද්‍යාව"**  
එක් අවට කියන්න...

ප්‍රධාන දේශකයා  
ආර්ය වත්තිආරච්චි  
විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය

මෙහෙයවීම:  
සමාජවිද්‍යා සංගමය  
සමාජ විද්‍යා අධ්‍යයනාංශය,  
රුහුණ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය

stress, exams, grades, expectations, depression, COVID-19, tuition, COVID-19's Impact on Student Mental Health

MAY 13, 2021  
05:00 - 7:00pm

**Thank You for Participation**  
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES COMMISSION

රාජ්‍ය භාෂා කොමිෂන් සභාවේ කාර්යාලය

සමාජවිද්‍යා සංගමය හා සමාජවිද්‍යා අධ්‍යයනාංශය-රුහුණ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය

රුහුණ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ සමාජවිද්‍යා සංගමය හා සමාජවිද්‍යා අධ්‍යයනාංශය මගින් සංවිධානය කරනු ලබන මාර්ගගත (online) දේශන මාලාවේ අවසන් දේශනය

**"COVID-19 ව්‍යසනය ශිෂ්ටාචාරමය අර්බුදයක්ද?"**  
[Is The Covid-19 Pandemic A Civilization Crisis ?]

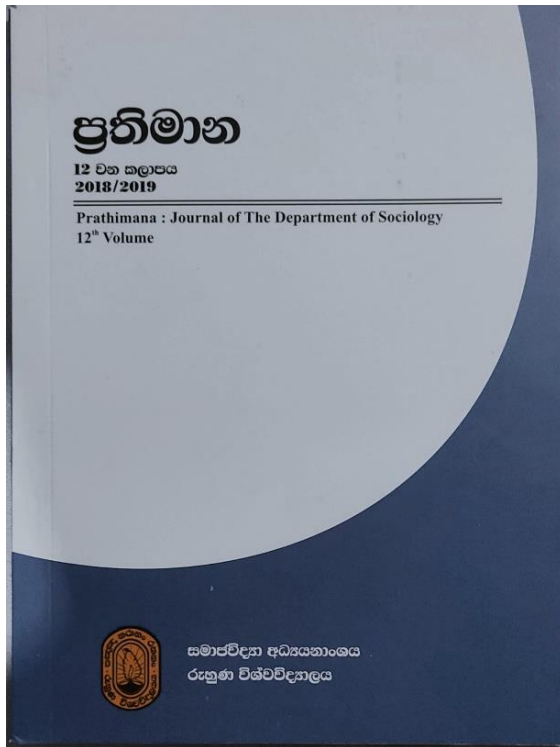
2021 මැයි 19 දින  
ප.ව. 05 සිට ප.ව. 07 දක්වා

ප්‍රධාන දේශකයා  
මහාචාර්ය නිර්මාල් රංජිත් දේවසිරි  
කොළඹ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය

Some events organized by the Sociological Association

**PRATHIMANA: Journal of the Department of Sociology**

Prathimana Volume 12, the 2018 /2019 issue of the Academic Journal of the Department of Sociology has been launched on 08<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Further, the volume 13 (issues 1&2) are planning to publish as an E-journal. Meanwhile, the volume 14 (issues 1&2) are also under the process of editing to publish soon. Prathimana journal is 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.



**“ප්‍රතිමාන” ශාස්ත්‍රීය (විමර්ශන) සංග්‍රහය**  
 2020/21 ISSN : 1391 -2445  
 ISSN (Online) : 2783 - 8595

රුහුණ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ සමාජවිද්‍යා අධ්‍යයනාංශය මගින් අදිරි වාර්ෂිකව ප්‍රකාශයට පත්කරන ප්‍රතිමාන ශාස්ත්‍රීය සංග්‍රහයේ වෙළුම 14 ( කලාප I හා II ) මාර්ගගත (online) කලාප සඳහා ශාස්ත්‍රීය ලිපි කැඳවීම

පර්යේෂණ උනන්දුවක් දැක්වන විද්‍යාර්ථී ඔබට මේ සඳහා අවස්ථාව හිමිවන අතර, සම්පූර්ණ කරන ලද පර්යේෂණ ලිපි (සිංහල/ දෙමළ/ ඉංග්‍රීසි මාධ්‍යය) 2021 ජූලි 20 වන දින හෝ ඊට පුර්වමයක් [socRprathimana2@gmail.com](mailto:socRprathimana2@gmail.com) යන විද්‍යුත් ලිපිනයට යොමුකරන මෙන් ඉල්ලා සිටිමු.

සංස්කාරක මණ්ඩලය  
 අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජනරාල් සමාජවිද්‍යා අධ්‍යයනාංශය (දුරකථන සංසාරකය)  
[nyghemantha@soci.ruh.ac.lk](mailto:nyghemantha@soci.ruh.ac.lk)  
 අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජනරාල් විමර්ශන  
[vrthak02@gmail.com](mailto:vrthak02@gmail.com)  
 සාකච්ඡාකාරී මාධ්‍ය විකේන්ද්‍රය  
[hitarawamiarachchi@soci.ruh.ac.lk](mailto:hitarawamiarachchi@soci.ruh.ac.lk)

පර්යේෂණ ලිපි සහතික කිරීමේ උපායමාර්ග මාදුරාට සහ පුළුබ් මාර්ගගත වෙළුම් සඳහා විවෘතයක්  
<https://www.hss.ruh.ac.lk/images/Sociology/Sociology/EBook/prathimana/index.html>

**VIMARSHA – Journal of the Sociological Association**

**විමර්ශ**  
 Journal of The Sociological Association  
**තෙවන කලාපය සඳහා ලිපි කැඳවීම**

“විමර්ශ” ඉංග්‍රීසි මාධ්‍යයේ රුහුණ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ සමාජවිද්‍යා සංගමය මගින් වාර්ෂිකව ප්‍රකාශයට පත්කරනු ලබන වාර්ෂික ඉංග්‍රීසි සංග්‍රහයයි.

රුහුණ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ විද්‍යාර්ථී ඔබට මේ සඳහා අවස්ථාව හිමි වන අතර ඔබ විසින් හිඬ ප්‍රමිතයට සම්පූර්ණ කරන ලද පර්යේෂණ ලිපි (ශාස්ත්‍රීය ලිපි සහ විමර්ශ ලිපි (සිංහල/ඉංග්‍රීසි) 2021 ජූලි මස 15 වැනි දා හෝ ඊට පූර්වව පහත විද්‍යුත් ලිපිනයට යොමු කරන්න.

(Word limit should be 3000-5000, APA reference method should be utilized)

Email: [vimarshasoc@gmail.com](mailto:vimarshasoc@gmail.com)

Editorial board:  
 Executive Editor- Dr. Gayathri Wijesundara  
 Chief Editor-  
 Dinesha Kankanamge  
 Assistant Editor-  
 T.K.Pramodha

සමාජවිද්‍යා සංගමය, සමාජවිද්‍යා අධ්‍යයනාංශය  
 රුහුණ විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය

**Book Launch of Prathimana & Vimarsha Journals will be held on 08th of March, 2021 at Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Auditorium from 2 pm All are welcome!**

Organized by Department of Sociology Sociological Association University of Ruhuna

Called articles for the “Vimarsha” (Vol: 03)



## Highlights of Undergraduates

**G.P.H Thakshila Sewwandi** was an undergraduate of the Department of Sociology. She served as the secretary of Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences' Sports Circle (FHSSC). Also, she served as the secretary of Sports Council, University of Ruhuna and contributed when organizing University Colours Night in 2021. She was a University Colours holder in 2021 for the years of 2019 of the Sri Lanka University Games (SLUG). Further, she holds the First Runners up of the Elle event, and 2nd Runners up of Elle event in 2018. She was the Captain of University Elle (women) team during the period of 2020-2021. Besides, she participated for the International Day of University Sport (IDUS) as a representative of the University, organized by the Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association. In addition, she attended to an international webinar on Covid-19: A Sociological and Medical Perspectives. She was an IMUN Campus ambassador following a five-week internship and she was one of the top performers during the internship program and she became the Best of IMUN as well. Also, she was an intern in the Business Development Program of IMUN. She participated as a member to the Port city Colombo Youth Speak Forum.



**Lahiru De Zoysa** served as the President of Sociological Association in 2020 to 2021. He served as a content writer in the SL 2030 Road to Rights Project. He represented the IMUN (International Model United Nations) conference as a university delegate. He presented a paper titled “Low Income Urban Dwellers’ Perception on Social Stigmatization during a Pandemic Situation; A Study Based on “Sayurupura” Condominium Area in Angulana” in the Annual Research Symposium, Department of Sociology,



University of Colombo in 2021. He also presented two papers titled “Issues of Legal Pluralism in a Multicultural Country; a Sociological Study Based on Kandian Law, Muslim Law and Thesavalamai Law in Sri Lanka” and “Christian community’s reflection on the role of Buddhist monk in contemporary Sri Lankan party politics; A Study Based on Urban Christian Community in Moratuwa Area” in RASAS which was organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

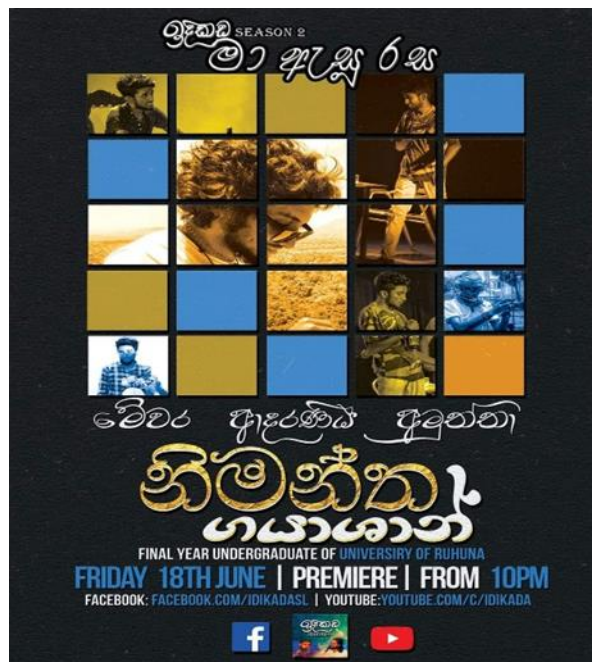
**N.G Maduwanthi Amaraweera** was an undergraduate of the Department of Sociology. She served as the girls’ captain of the university Taekwondo team in 2020 and won the first place for taekwondo in the women’s 46kg weight class. She was a University Colours holder in 2021 for the year of 2019. Furthermore, she served as a Magazine editor in the sports council of the University of Ruhuna.



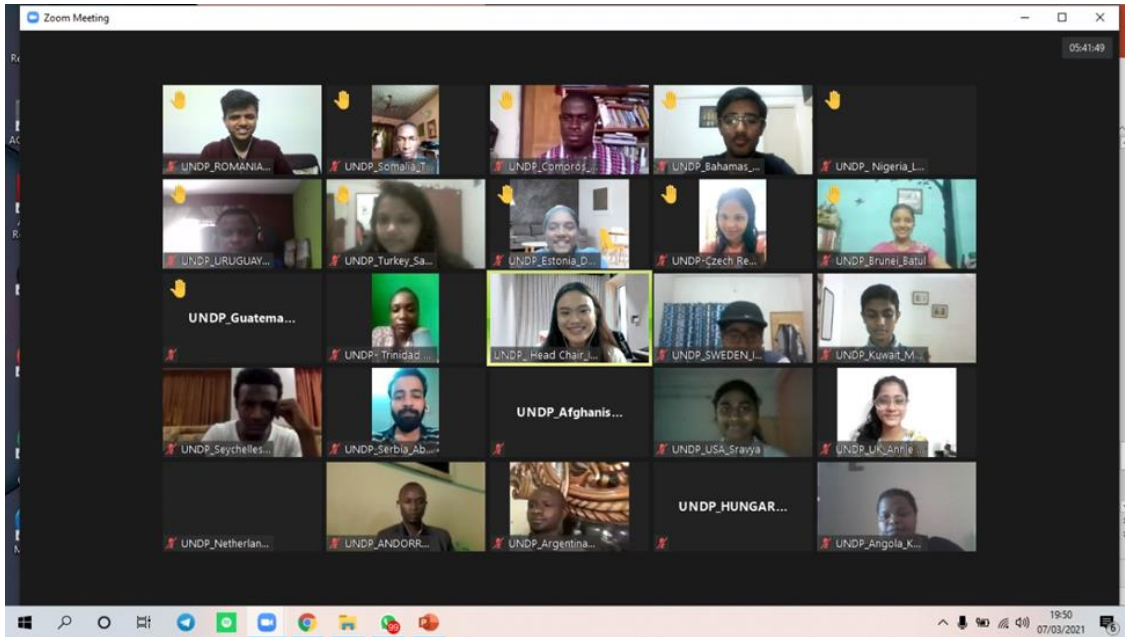
*Participating University colours night celebration*

**Nimantha Gayashan Perera** participated as a resource person of the 'Idikada' Program which was organized by the Eastern University on 18th June 2021. Furthermore, he presented a research paper at the International Symposium on Agriculture and Environment, in 2021.

**Thilini Gamage** engaged in number of academic activities and community programs conducted by the Department of Sociology. She has contributed as an author of the "Wings of Brotherhood" book and Vimarshi Journal which was published by the Sociological Association, Department of Sociology. Apart from that, she joined in several research projects as a data collector conducted by the Department and other local and foreign



universities. She successfully completed the Certificate Course in Emotional Intelligence conducted by the International Institute of Training and Coaching, Sri Lanka. Recently, Ms. Thilini participated for the International MUN online conference as a university delegate conducted by the UNDP.



*Participating for the International MUN online conference*



***"There is no real ending. It's just the place where you stop the story."  
-Frank Herbert-***