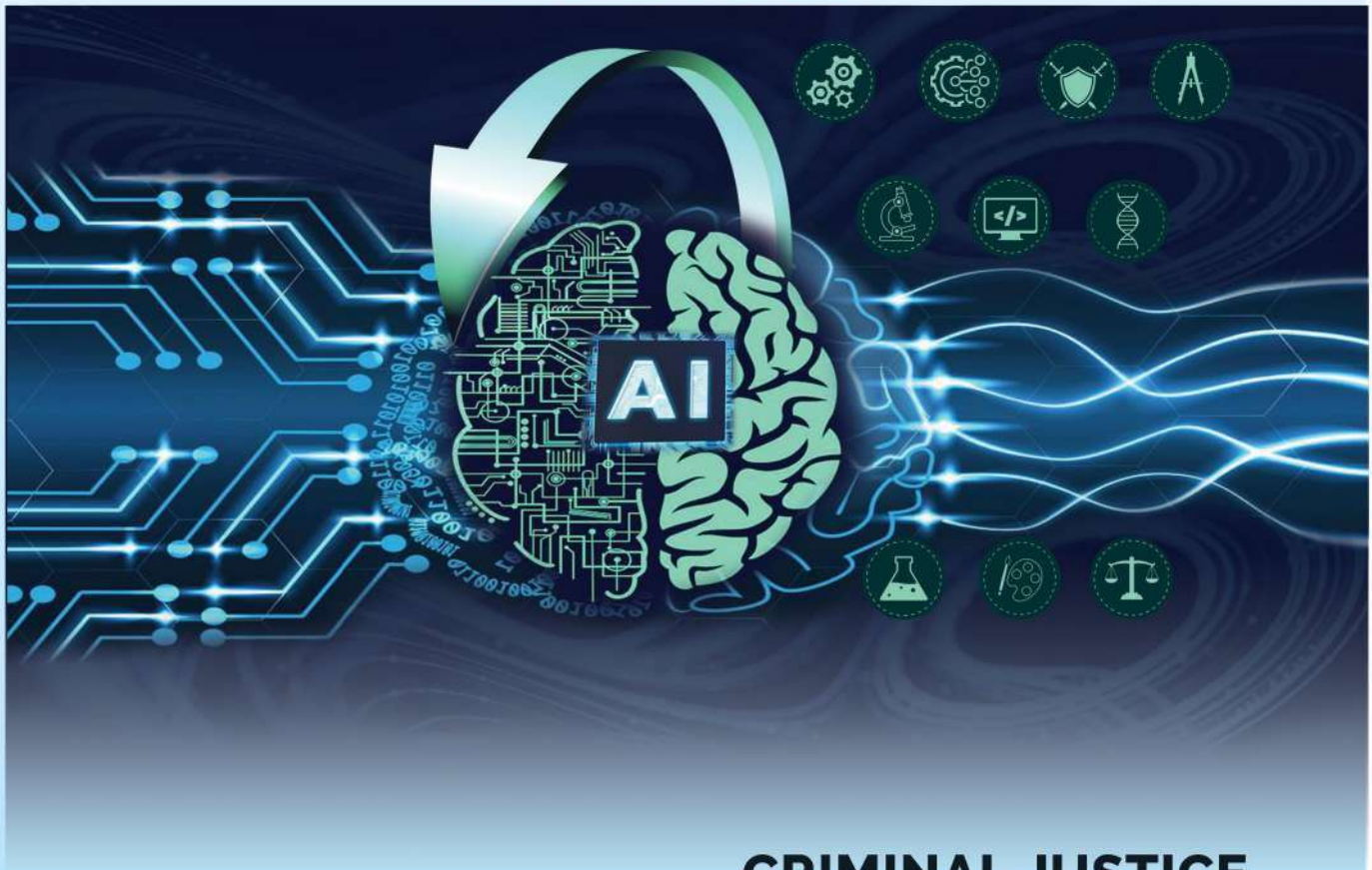




17th INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

*Unravelling the Paradigm Shift:
Revolutions in the Era of AI*

26th - 27th SEPTEMBER 2024



**CRIMINAL JUSTICE
ABSTRACTS**

General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University



17th INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

UNRAVELLING THE PARADIGM SHIFT: REVOLUTIONS IN THE ERA OF AI

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

ABSTRACTS



General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University
Ratmalana, Sri Lanka.

KDU PRESS

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This book contains the abstracts of papers presented at the **Criminal Justice** Sessions of the 17th International Research Conference of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka held on the September 26–27, 2024.

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Message from the Chief Guest



I am truly honoured to welcome all the distinguished participants to the 17th International Research Conference (IRC) at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU). This annually organized conference serves as a unique milestone showcasing the rich research culture deeply embedded within KDU. As a prestigious seat of learning, novelty and innovation remain at the heart of KDU's mission. Therefore, 'Unravelling the Paradigm Shift: Revolutions in the Era of AI' has been chosen as the key theme of IRC 2024.

Moving ahead with the momentum of modern-day research, we are set to uncover the extensive impacts of artificial intelligence, not just in defence but across every facet of national interest. Currently, AI has become a driving force, reforming our defence strategies, transforming healthcare, and restructuring our educational frameworks and infrastructure.

Investing in research is essential for national advancement, promoting innovation, formulating policies, and offering solutions that address our most pressing challenges. Hence, the IRC serves as a vital platform that fosters such great endeavours, contributing significantly to national development. Our responsibility as defenders of national security is profound, extending beyond traditional roles to include the ethical integration of advanced technologies that ensure our nation's safety and prosperity.

KDU stands as a symbol of a rich and diverse research culture across many disciplines. It is also a hub for high-quality research, upholding international standards of academic excellence. This conference represents a critical meeting of minds where leading experts converge to define strategies for our future. Each discussion and presentation at this event is a step toward securing a thriving, prosperous future for our region.

I extend my best wishes to all for a successful and productive conference, eagerly anticipating the innovative ideas and transformative insights that will undoubtedly arise.

**GENERAL SHS KOTTEGODA (Retd) WWV RWP RSP
VSV USP ndc**
Chancellor General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

Message from the Keynote Speaker



Brain health is a holistic concept encompassing cognitive, sensory, social-emotional, behavioural, and motor functions, enabling individuals to achieve their full potential. With one in three people globally affected by a brain disorder, the urgency for preventive brain health initiatives is evident. Since the inception of World Brain Day in 2014, there has been a renewed global focus on this critical area. The World Federation of Neurology (WFN), in collaboration with key organizations such as the American Academy of Neurology (AAN), the European Academy of Neurology (EAN), and the Asian Regional Consortium of Headaches (ARCH), has led the charge to raise awareness and promote brain health worldwide.

This keynote address will outline the journey of World Brain Day and its impact on the global brain health movement, with a specific focus on prevention. It will explore the evolution of brain health concepts and the alarming prevalence of brain disorders, emphasizing the need for urgent, coordinated action. Central to this effort is the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in enhancing preventive brain health strategies. AI-driven technologies are increasingly being used to predict, diagnose, and monitor brain health conditions, enabling earlier interventions and more personalized approaches to prevention.

The address will highlight the author's pioneering work in community-based programs, public health campaigns, and international collaborations. It will underscore the critical role of prevention, early intervention, and AI-powered tools in improving quality of life and reducing the global burden of brain disorders. The ultimate goal is to advance comprehensive brain health initiatives that leverage cutting-edge technologies to ensure a healthier future for all.

Professor Tissa Wijeratne

DR OAM MD PhD FRACP FRCP(London) FRCP (Edin) FAAN (USA)
FEAN (EAN) Professor and Chair, Director, Senior Neurologist,
Department of Neurology, Western Health, Victoria, Australia Co-
Founder and Co-Chair, World Brain Day, World Federation of
Neurology

Message from the Vice-Chancellor



Greetings to all participants, speakers, and guests of the 17th International Research Conference (IRC) at KDU. This year's IRC is centered around a timely theme that has sparked diverse dialogues in the realms of research and innovation. The theme, 'Unravelling the Paradigm Shift: Revolutions in the Era of AI', serves as an eye-opener for both eminent and novice researchers across the globe. It also highlights the critical role that advanced technologies play in shaping our world.

At KDU, we take pride in being at the forefront of defence education in Asia, a distinction affirmed by our high rankings and our pivotal role in shaping global security dialogues. KDU claims to have a unique history of providing high-quality education for both military and civilian students. It also proudly stands as a thriving hub for cutting-edge research that addresses pressing global and national issues. We strongly believe in fostering a rich and diverse research culture among KDU's students and staff, aligned with international standards. Therefore, IRC is recognized as a key event in KDU's annual calendar, emphasizing its significance in the institution's academic and research endeavours.

This year, we aim to explore the revolutionary impacts of AI across diverse disciplines, reaffirming our commitment to leading these discussions on a global scale. The insights shared here will undoubtedly spark new research initiatives and strategic collaborations, enhancing Sri Lanka's stature as a leader in both academic and strategic domains.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all those whose collective efforts have brought this conference to a reality. Your contributions ensure that KDU plays a prominent role in the international arena, driving discussions that will shape the future of technology and strategy. I look forward to a successful event, characterized by insightful discussions and pioneering ideas.

**REAR ADMIRAL HGU DAMMIKA KUMARA, VSV,
USP, psc, MMaritimePol, BSc (DS)**
Vice Chancellor General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

Message from the Chairperson



It is my honour, as the Chairperson, to welcome you all to the 17th International Research Conference at KDU. This year, we explore how artificial intelligence has evolved from a technological innovation into a catalyst for transformative change across numerous sectors. With an impressive selection of 441 research papers, drawn from nearly 1000 submissions, our conference spans across 11 distinct tracks covering a wide range of disciplines. Our theme, “Unravelling the Paradigm Shift: Revolutions in the Era of AI,” highlights the profound and far-reaching transformations that AI is driving—from reshaping urban infrastructure to revolutionizing healthcare. The conference is designed to promote interdisciplinary dialogue, addressing not only technological advancements but also the ethical, social, and economic implications of these developments. One of our key objectives is to create a platform where researchers, professionals, and thought leaders can come together, exchange ideas, and foster collaborative initiatives that will push the boundaries of innovation. I am deeply grateful to all our keynote speaker and the plenary speakers, other presenters, , participants, and the entire organizing team for their tireless efforts and contributions. Your dedication to advancing knowledge is what brings this conference to life, positioning it as a critical forum in global research. Together, we are charting a path toward a future where technology and society grow hand in hand, reshaping the landscape of not just research but our daily lives. Let’s engage in meaningful discussions that will inspire new perspectives and drive impactful solutions. Here’s to a successful conference, rich in insight and collaboration. Finally, I would like to extend my best wishes to all the presenters, authors, and participants joining the KDU IRC 2024, whether on-site or online. I hope each of you finds this conference not only informative and enjoyable but also an encouraging opportunity to experience the warm hospitality of KDU throughout these two fruitful days.

Dr. Nirosha Wedasinghe

Ph.D(KDU-SL), MIT(CStud-Aus),B.Sc in Comp IS (London Met-UK), SMIEEE(US), MBSC(UK), MCS(SL), FISDS(Japan) Senior Lecturer cum Director -Centre for Gender Equity and Equality General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Conference Chair-IRC 2024

Message from the Secretary

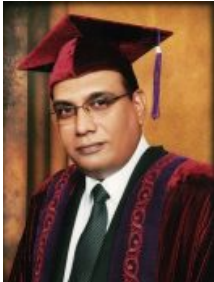


As we gather for the 17th International Research Conference at KDU, I extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all participants, researchers, and thought leaders. This year, we proudly present 441 research papers selected from nearly 1,000 submissions, spanning across 11 tracks in diverse fields such as Defence and Strategic Studies, Medicine, Health Sciences, Engineering, Technology and Computing, Basic sciences, Law, Social Sciences and Humanities, and the Built Environment and Spatial Sciences. Our theme, “Unravelling the Paradigm Shift: Revolutions in the Era of AI,” reflects the profound ways that AI is transforming our world, becoming integral to our lives and work. The discussions here aim to explore how AI can address global challenges, drive innovation, and foster interdisciplinary collaborations that will shape the future. Looking ahead, the future of IRC lies in broadening its horizons. We aim to increase international participation, diversify the scope of research, and establish global research consortia to tackle real-world problems that extend beyond the borders of Sri Lanka. The insights gained here must lead to actionable outcomes, particularly in formulating policy recommendations in areas such as AI in defence, public health, and education. This conference is more than just a forum for discussion; it is a platform where the brightest minds collaborate to drive change. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all our speakers and participants for their dedication and contributions. Together, we are not only shaping the future of research but also crafting solutions that will impact society on a global scale. Here’s to a successful and inspiring conference that drives innovation, shapes policy, and sparks meaningful collaboration.

Dr. HM Prasanna Herath

Ph.D. (USJ), RN(SLNC), B.Sc(Nursing) Hons (UPSL), CTHE Senior Lecturer Faculty of Allied Health Sciences Erasmus coordinator General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Conference Secretary- IRC 2024

Message from the Dean



It is with great pride and enthusiasm that this message is sent to the Criminal Justice Sessions of the KDU International Research Conference 2024. This year's theme, "Unraveling the Paradigm Shift: Revolutions in the Era of AI," reflects the profound transformations taking place across all fields, including criminal justice, as a result of the rapid advancements in new technologies and artificial intelligence.

The landscape of the criminal justice system is an ever-evolving one. This conference presents an important forum for deliberation as to how to utilize these innovations to promote the causes of fairness, transparency, and accountability while balancing individual rights and social interests.

Abstracts and presentations in the Criminal Justice Sessions reflect a wide array of research on contemporary challenges and opportunities within the criminal justice system due to the application of AI in law enforcement and judicial processes.

In a changing world, a balance needs to be struck between the novelties of technology and the principle lines of ethics that define justice. The discussions at the conference will not solely be an academic exercise, but also a window for policy, practice, and reforms of the criminal justice system.

On behalf of the Faculty of Criminal Justice, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the distinguished speakers, presenters and the participants for their valuable contributions to the success of this conference.

I wish you all a productive and thought-provoking experience, which would inspire innovative solutions and foster meaningful collaborations that will help navigate the challenges and opportunities of the digital age.

Mr. Mangala Wijesinghe

Dean, Faculty of Criminal Justice, General Sir John Kotelawala
Defence University

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ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Assessing Transparency, Fairness, and Accountability in AI-Based Systems: Examining the Implications of AI Algorithms and Machine Learning Models in Legal Decision-Making

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Abstract

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in legal decision-making is discussed in this paper in terms of both legal and ethical issues. It defines intelligence as the capacity for consistent, rational, and abstract reasoning. This study used doctrinal research to collect both primary and secondary data. Increasing public sector responsibility, enacting regulatory supervision, enhancing global coordination of algorithmic governance, and promoting awareness via education are some of the ideas discussed. The potential advantages of AI for the legal sector including improved access to justice through online courts and conflict settlement are highlighted. It also underlines the value of human engagement in decision-making, particularly in difficult circumstances that call for legal interpretation and compassion, and it also acknowledges the limitations of AI systems. The study tackles questions with algorithmic accountability, transparency, and bias in AI systems. To increase openness, it advises passing legislation dictating how professionals should behave when using AI and supplying verified sources of trustworthy information. This study also recognizes difficulties in integrating AI into the judicial system, such as the necessity for accuracy and comprehension of legal principles. It raises concerns about accountability, openness, and justice when utilizing AI, as demonstrated by a situation in which a person's right to due process was contested because of an algorithm-generated report that was not subject to scrutiny. The final section of the paper examines the application of AI algorithms and machine learning models in the context of legal decision-making, with a focus on foreseeing case outcomes, establishing sentencing guidelines, and evaluating the reliability of evidence. It draws attention to how intricate the underlying algorithms are and how they might affect the justice system.

Keywords: *artificial intelligence, transparency, accountability, human factor*

Technological Advances in Anti Trafficking Efforts: The role of AI in Enhancing Criminal Justice Responses

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Abstract

Human Trafficking has become one of the most severe and topical concerns in everyday people's lives worldwide. New technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been influential in tackling this. This paper discusses the use of AI in combating human trafficking with special reference to the identification of victims by the Thorn organization focusing on child sexual exploitation. This study used qualitative case study research method, and this is evident mainly in the literature review. Several key success factors were identified and brought out: the combination of AI with other approaches, the efficiency of AI-related methodologies, and the integration of a number of methodologies. Several issues were also identified such as quality and availability of data, ethical issues of AI, questions of how algorithms are performed or are prejudiced, and questions of how far AI can go. The best practices highlighted therefore involve catering to the feedback from the users, keen ethical practices surrounding AI, and most importantly being open to the best practices with the flexibility to adapt those practices and even encourage people's collaboration in the use of those measures. Moreover, general recommendations to the entire AI spectrum in handling human trafficking were discussed while providing specific recommendations to Sri Lanka under five main themes of enhancing data collection, ethical AI practice, fostering collaboration, improving adaptability, and scaling AI solutions derived through Thorn case study. Finally, it was concluded that the Thorn case study was a success story where AI was able to combat human trafficking by having more opportunities to develop customized platforms around the world.

Keywords: *human trafficking, artificial intelligence (AI), technology, child sexual exploitation*

Criminal Justice in the Digital Age: AI's Role in Raising Awareness About Human Trafficking

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Abstract

Human trafficking remains a prominent subject within humanity's concerns since it is characterized by high incidences of complications. Despite efforts to eradicate this heinous crime from the world, it is heading towards a leading business as a transnational crime. AI has become a prominent tool in every field today and human trafficking is not an exception. Therefore, this study explored the challenges and prospects of using AI for human trafficking awareness. Thrusts such as data handling and the ability to recognize trafficking occurrences on social media, which are endowed in the AI platform, enhance the results of anti-trafficking campaigns. However, there are issues that people associate with the use of AI in public awareness such as privacy and security of individuals, and, some endorsements based on the skewed algorithm. Exploring the knowledge of AI case studies and categorizing the related literature and features of effective AI campaigns, the study identified several ways through which various communities could be made more conscious, sensitive, and proactive towards combating human trafficking with the help of AI.

Keywords: *artificial intelligence, public awareness, human trafficking*

Enhancing Criminological Theories with AI: A New Approach to Combat Human Trafficking

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Abstract

This study attempted to bring on board the use of AI in countering human trafficking utilizing the criminological theories to enhance the effectiveness of the methods being employed in the fight against this heinous crime. Applying the Routine Activity Theory (RAT), Social Learning Theory (SLT), and Strain Theory (ST) the study attempted to illustrate the directions where AI can improve the architecture applied in the detection, prevention, and intervention of the trafficking activities. The study used the systematic literature review framework to evaluate the current literature and case studies relevant to AI in human trafficking. According to the analysis, the application of AI which includes Machine Learning (ML), Natural Language Processing (NLP), and Social Network Analysis (SNA) enhances the strength of policing and decision-making organizations. Firstly, it can target some aspects of the problem by tracing where it is most likely to occur and can track it endlessly, both of which will improve resource management and early response. However, the study also highlighted that the utility of AI has to be backed by ethical aspects such as privacy, bias, and accountability. Therefore, it should be noted that the integration of AI with the principles of the criminological theory can present ways of combating human trafficking, but such a process must be accompanied by the investigation of attainable problematic elements and the development of strategies to enforce the positive impacts of integrating AI while minimizing detrimental effects.

Keywords: *artificial intelligence (AI), human trafficking, criminological theories*

Exploring Career Satisfaction Levels of Police Officers: A Study Focused on Junior Gazetted Police Officers in Western Province.

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Abstract

Job satisfaction among law enforcement personnel is critical due to its significant impact on performance, retention, and overall well-being. This study examined the job satisfaction levels of Junior Gazetted Police Officers (JGPOs) in the Western Province of Sri Lanka, with the aim of identifying key determinants and potential areas for improvement. A structured questionnaire was administered to JGPOs, covering various dimensions including salary, working conditions, career development, interpersonal relationships, work-life balance, and recognition. The collected data from 100 respondents were analyzed accordingly. The results reveal varying levels of satisfaction across different job aspects. Approximately 60% of respondents reported moderate satisfaction with their salaries, while 30% expressed dissatisfaction, indicating a need for improved compensation. Around 70% of officers were satisfied with their physical working conditions, though 40% raised concerns about workload and stress. Feedback on career development opportunities was mixed, with 50% of officers expressing satisfaction, while the other half called for enhanced training programs. Interpersonal relationships among peers were generally positive, with 80% of respondents expressing satisfaction; however, 45% highlighted issues related to hierarchical dynamics and communication with superiors. Satisfaction with work-life balance was moderate, with 55% of officers effectively managing personal and professional responsibilities. Recognition for work was another area of mixed feedback, with 50% of officers feeling adequately acknowledged. The findings suggest that while there is a general level of job satisfaction among JGPOs in the Western Province, there is a clear need for improvements, particularly in terms of salary packages, career development, and stress management. Enhancing the work environment through better communication and support structures can further boost job satisfaction. This study underscores the importance of addressing the factors influencing job satisfaction among police officers, as targeted improvements can enhance their well-being and performance, leading to more effective law enforcement and public service.

Keywords: *job satisfaction, junior gazetted police officers, law enforcement, work-life balance*

Criminal Proceedings and Moral Discipline of Theravada Monks: A Comparative Case Study between Thailand and Sri Lanka

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Abstract

In cases where Buddhist monks commit criminal offenses, two approaches are typically used: enforcement under Buddhist monastic discipline (Vinaya) and enforcement according to civil laws. In Thailand, monks must disrobe before criminal proceedings can proceed, a process that can be detrimental, especially if they are later found innocent, resulting in the permanent loss of their monastic status. Conversely, Sri Lanka, sharing a Theravada Buddhist heritage with Thailand, allows monks to retain their monkhood during the criminal justice process until a final verdict is reached. This approach reflects a key difference in how the two countries handle monks within their legal systems, with Sri Lanka offering more protection for monk's rights and dignity. This research compares criminal justice practices regarding monks in Thailand and Sri Lanka, focusing on their Criminal Codes, Criminal Procedure Codes, and Vinaya. The aim is to identify legal measures and models that ensure fairness and accuracy in handling criminal cases involving monks. Through a review of literature and interviews with scholars and monks in both countries, the study found that Thailand's primary issue lies in the use of authoritative power by government officials to disrobe monks without their consent or the involvement of Buddhist monastic organizations, violating principles of criminal justice and religious freedom. The study recommends amending Thai law to allow criminal proceedings against monks without requiring disrobing, unless done with the Sangha's consent. This proposed change will safeguard monks' rights and dignity while upholding justice within the context of Theravada Buddhism.

Keywords: *criminal justice process, disrobing practices, Theravada Buddhism, Thailand-Sri Lanka jurisprudence*

Fear of Crime in Colombo's Inner-City Settlements: Exploring Fear Adaptation and Normalization

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Abstract

Crime has been identified as one of the biggest forces shaping city life due to the levels of fear it triggers. This study aimed to discuss the aspects of the social construction of fear of crime, particularly within the inner-city settlements in Sri Lanka's commercial capital city of Colombo. Thus, the study collected community views by conducting focus group discussions with 20 participants from "Ginthupitiya" and "Messenger Street" in Colombo Central. It was also established that contextual factors such as lack of proper lighting and relatively poor infrastructure contribute substantially to the feeling of fear. Also, these fears are compounded by; age, gender and past experiences of victimization. In these areas, the population meets the most important prerequisites – food, clothing, and other primary needs, giving less attention to crimes. Fear of crime is more of a secondary level concern, primary being the fight for decent living standards. Fear has penetrated everyday practices of many citizens, and they have got used to 'being ready' for a danger lurking around every corner.

Keywords: *adaptation, community safety, fear of crime, normalization, urban settlements*

A Study on The Legal, Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Dimensions of Post-Punishment situations of Drug Traffickers in Sri Lanka: Special Reference to Moratumulla police area

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Abstract

This study examined the post-punishment situation of drug traffickers in Moratumulla, Sri Lanka, within the broader context of the Mount Lavinia police division. Despite stringent legal measures aimed at deterring drug-related crimes, including severe penalties under the Poisons, Opium, and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, the phenomenon persists, particularly in densely populated and economically disadvantaged areas like Moratumulla. Through a mixed-methods approach involving archival data, interviews with law enforcement personnel and rehabilitated individuals and direct observation of police operations, the study explored the efficacy of current legal sanctions, rehabilitation programs, and community dynamics in reintegrating drug traffickers into society. Key findings highlight significant challenges in achieving successful reintegration, as evidenced by high rates of recidivism among rehabilitated individuals. Socio-economic factors, including limited alternative employment opportunities and familial involvement in drug trafficking, perpetuate cycles of crime despite rehabilitation efforts. Health issues, such as addiction to substances like methamphetamine, further complicate reintegration and necessitate comprehensive health interventions alongside rehabilitation. The study concludes with policy recommendations aimed at enhancing punitive measures, strengthening rehabilitation strategies, fostering community engagement, and improving law enforcement efforts to effectively combat drug trafficking and support sustainable societal reintegration. By addressing these multifaceted challenges, Areas like Moratumulla can mitigate the impacts of drug trafficking, reduce recidivism rates, and promote public health and safety within affected communities.

Keywords: *drug traffickers, rehabilitation, post-punishment situation, socio-economic factors*

Evidentiary Value of Facts of an Identification Parade in Sri Lankan Law and Right to a Fair Trial; An Exploration of Current Trends in Criminal Trials

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Abstract

The law of evidence is fundamentally a procedural law, but in certain parts, it acts as substantive law as well. The evidence offered to support a fact in issue, as to the necessary elements of the case, as opposed to evidence that goes to procedural or collateral issues are termed substantive evidence. Reliance can be placed on such evidence to arrive at a decision. Non-substantive evidence is such that it either corroborates the substantive evidence to increase its credibility or contradicts substantive evidence to discredit it. Substantive evidence can take many forms; such as witness testimony and, statements made by individuals who have firsthand knowledge of the events in question. Witness testimony can be either direct (witness saw or heard something through his own senses) or circumstantial (witnesses can provide information that indirectly supports a claim). Physical evidence; objects, documents or other materials can be presented to the court to support a claim. Expert testimony is opinions given by qualified experts in a particular field that can help explain complex issues or provide insights into technical matters. If a witness testifies that they saw the defendant commit the crime, their testimony would be considered substantive evidence that supports the prosecution's case. Identification of the accused at Identification Parade (ID) as substantive evidence is a common method in procedural law in most common law jurisdictions. However, when observing the recent trends in adjudications in Sri Lanka, it was understood that the probative value given to facts of an ID parade in Sri Lanka was something less than substantive evidence. Given the fact that, Sri Lanka's Criminal Procedure Code does not provide a comprehensive procedure for the conduct of an ID parade, a question arises as to whether a fair trial could be ensured when different procedures are adopted in different cases allowing a trial judge the discretion of admission or non-admission of such evidence at the trial. This paper analyses the legal position of Sri Lanka relating to ID parades in comparison with the Indian Law and UK law. This is doctrinal study where a comparison of landmark cases from the UK, India and Sri Lanka were critically evaluated to understand the judicial stance of these jurisdictions with regard to the evidentiary value given to facts of an ID parade. Descriptive analysis method was used to analyze the data.

Keywords: *evidence, identification parades, fair trial, rights of accused*

Socio – Economic impact of cryptocurrency related financial scams in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

This study investigated the socio-economic impact of cryptocurrency-related financial scams in Sri Lanka from 2018 to 2023. Cryptocurrency offers valuable financial opportunities but has also become a haven for scams, which negatively impacts economies and societies. The objective of this study was to measure the financial damages, identify the factors that contribute to victimization and to evaluate socio-economic impact of people and communities. We used a mixed methods approach to analyze the qualitative data from victim interviews, financial experts, and policymakers and the quantitative data from articles, police records, and financial reports. According to initial studies, there have been recorded cryptocurrency scams that have resulted in significant losses in millions of dollars which approximately exceed \$12.5 billion in 2023. In addition to destroying people's savings and personal wealth, these losses have damaged public confidence in cryptocurrency. Impacts on society include victims suffering from mental health problems and family conflicts such as social isolation, fear of digital financing and domestic violence due to lack of money. The study also examined the regulatory responses by Sri Lankan authorities and the effectiveness of these measures in limiting such fraudulent activities. The finding highlighted the need for strong laws and regulations and public awareness to protect people from scams and rebuild trust in the digital finance sector by exposing these socio-economic effects. This paper provides valuable insights into root causes for victimization and the need for educating the public, financial institutions, and lawmakers on the significance of keeping alert. It also offers crucial information for the development of targeted policies and programs aimed at preventing financial scams in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *financial scams, cryptocurrency, socio-economic impact, Sri Lanka*

Drugs related masculinity gang criminal behavior: A Case study based on Welikada and Mahara prison

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Abstract

Gang-related crimes represent a critical concern in Sri Lanka, driven by well-organized groups engaged in a variety of criminal activities that profoundly affect society. Historically, both global and local gang activities have been documented, with significant instances observed from the colonial era to the present, particularly within Sinhala and Muslim communities. According to prison statistics, individuals involved in drug-related offenses are frequently incarcerated for drug trafficking, abuse, and other serious crimes. This study aimed to analyze drug-related gang criminality through the lens of masculinity. Employing a qualitative methodology, the study was based on ten case studies from Welikada and Mahara Prisons during 2023/2024. Data was collected from official prison records, offender profiles, and interviews with prison officers. Content analysis was used to analyse the data. The study highlights that gender stereotype norms are deeply ingrained among prisoners involved in drug-related gang activities, there is a significant correlation between low self-control and criminal behavior among incarcerated gang members, and these individuals are frequently involved in violent crimes such as murder, robbery, and financial fraud. The findings also indicates that most gang members originate from urban rather than rural areas and that these gangs operate within extensive networks, often engaging in transnational crimes. The study concludes that drug-related gang crimes are on the rise in Sri Lanka, with prisoners maintaining substantial connections both locally and globally. The primary recommendation is the disruption of the drug supply chain that sustains these criminal activities. Additionally, the study emphasizes the role of masculine power dynamics in perpetuating these offenses within society.

Keywords: *crime typology, gang criminals, masculinity, prisons, transnational crime*

Uncovering the Drivers of Women Criminal Victimization: A study from Horana Police Division Sri Lanka

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Abstract

This study investigated the socio-cultural, economic, and institutional factors contributing to the criminal victimization of women within the Horana Police Division, Sri Lanka from 2019-2023. Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a significant issue in this area with a notable prevalence that highlights the urgent need for targeted interventions. Despite existing research on GBV in Sri Lanka, there is a critical gap in understanding the specific socio-cultural and institutional dynamics within smaller, less urbanized regions like the Horana Police Division. This study addressed this gap by providing a focused examination of these factors in a rural setting, underrepresented in previous studies. This mixed-method study combined quantitative methods such as surveys and statistical data analysis with qualitative methods such as interviews to gain a comprehensive understanding of the research problem. This approach enabled the exploration of complex issues by capturing both numerical trends and detailed descriptive insights. The findings reveal that entrenched socio-cultural norms are a predominant factor in driving women's victimization. These norms often normalise abusive behavior and reinforce male dominance creating a hostile environment where women are systematically disempowered. Economic dependency further exacerbates this vulnerability as many women reported a lack of financial independence and control over household finances. This financial reliance limits their ability to leave abusive relationships, perpetuating the cycle of violence. The study also highlights the inadequacy of institutional responses to GBV. Respondents indicated that law enforcement responses were ineffective, citing limited legal awareness and insufficient support services as major obstacles. The absence of accessible healthcare and support systems further undermines women's ability to seek help. In conclusion, GBV in the Horana Police Division is sustained by deeply rooted socio-cultural norms, economic dependency, and inadequate institutional responses. Addressing this issue requires socio-cultural reforms, economic empowerment initiatives, and strengthening institutional frameworks to provide effective support.

Keywords: *criminal victimization of women, drivers of women victimization, gender based violence*

A Sociological Study on the Factors Affecting Drug Addiction Among School Students: With Special Reference to Batapola Police Area

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Abstract

Drug addiction among school students is a burning issue in Sri Lanka. This study identified factors affecting drug addiction among school students. The research problem was the factors affecting drug addiction among school students in Sri Lanka. The main objective of this study was to propose solutions to the factors affecting drug addiction among school students and the specific objectives were to investigate the types of drug addiction, the family background affecting drug addiction, the relationship between socio-economic status of students and drug addiction, reasons behind drug addiction and to suggest solutions to prevent drug addiction among school students. Batapola Police area was examined as the study area to achieve research objectives. A sample of 20 was selected using snowball sampling technique. Primary data collection methods of questionnaires and interviews were used. Police records, scholarly articles, and research articles were used as secondary data collection methods. Both qualitative and quantitative data analysis methods were used. SPSS software was used for statistical analysis, and thematic analysis was performed to analyse interview data. The results revealed that drug addicts were using social media frequently and hanging out with friends while most of them had no hobbies, most drug addicts' parents had low levels of education, most of those who became addicted to drugs came from low-income families, they had resorted to using drugs during various functions and outings or trips, most of them had turned to drugs because they were away from the direct supervision of their parents. The study recommends conducting drug awareness programs at school level, introducing laws relating to drug offences in Sri Lanka to school curriculum, and closely monitoring children by the parents or guardians to minimize drug addiction.

Keywords: *drugs addiction, school students, social problem*

Effectiveness of Institutional Support Systems on Mental Health Among University Lecturers in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

The mental well-being of university lecturers in Sri Lanka is a pressing issue, made worse by their heavy workloads, demanding standards, and having to handle several responsibilities. The goal of this study was to determine how well institutional support networks can benefit these lecturers who are experiencing mental health problems. The study, which used a mixed-methods approach, included qualitative interviews and quantitative surveys with a sample of 150 university teachers from different universities in Sri Lanka. The study objectives were to determine the current state of lecturer's mental health, identify institutional support networks, analyze their efficacy, and offer evidence-based suggestions for enhancement. The findings showed that most of the lecturers have experienced mental health problems such as stress, anxiety, and depression. The main support networks that are available for them are work-life balance policies, mental health awareness programs, peer support networks, and counselling services. Peer support groups and counselling services were shown to be the most successful support networks, considerably improving the mental health outcomes of university instructors. However, the study revealed that stigma and accessibility concerns pose major obstacles to the use of these services. The study reveals significant potential for improving the current support systems, despite their relative effectiveness. Increasing mental health awareness, creating peer support networks, lessening stigma, and introducing flexible work schedules are among the suggested enhancements. These strategies aim to foster a welcoming and health-conscious learning environment for instructors, thereby enhancing learning outcomes and work satisfaction over time.

Keywords: *mental health, institutional support systems, mental well-being*

Strengthening Sri Lanka's Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Framework: Challenges and Opportunities in the Digital Age

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Abstract

Sri Lanka's anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorism financing (CTF) frameworks face significant challenges in the digital age, threatening financial integrity and national security. The rapid rise of digital technologies, including cryptocurrencies, digital transactions, and online banking, has outpaced existing regulations, creating new avenues for financial crimes. The purpose of this study was to investigate these challenges and opportunities, assess the effectiveness of Sri Lanka's current AML and CTF policies, and propose improvements based on international best practices. The study addressed the following questions: What are the primary challenges Sri Lanka's AML and CTF frameworks encounter due to digital technologies? How have these technologies impacted their effectiveness? What improvements can be made by learning from practices in Singapore, the United Kingdom (UK), and Australia? Using a qualitative approach utilizing both primary and secondary data, this study reviewed existing literature, policy documents, and case studies from the aforementioned countries. Recommendations include establishing a Digital Financial Intelligence Unit (DFIU) within the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) to leverage advanced data analytics and AI for monitoring digital transactions, utilizing blockchain technology to enhance transaction traceability, and creating a formal public-private partnership framework to drive innovation in AML and CTF processes. Insights from the successful frameworks of Singapore, the UK, and Australia will guide tailored solutions for Sri Lanka. Comprehensive training for law enforcement, regulatory authorities, and financial institutions on current trends and technologies is also crucial. By addressing these challenges and implementing the proposed recommendations, Sri Lanka can enhance its AML and CTF frameworks, adapting to evolving threats and ensuring greater financial security and stability.

Keywords: *Anti-Money Laundering (AML), Counter-Terrorism Financing (CTF), digital technologies*

Application of Biometric System to Sri Lankan Prison System to Identify Inmates

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Abstract

A biometric system is a technology that identifies and verifies individuals based on their unique physical characteristics. Common biometric identifiers include fingerprints, facial recognition, iris patterns, and voice recognition. Traditional identification systems are used in Sri Lankan prisons based on manual, and non-biometric methods. These systems include physical documentation and use physical body features based on records. Because of these methods prison staff cannot do accurate and secure identification. As modern connectivity shapes the world outside, it can also reshape how prisons are managed parallel to other institutions. This study explored the possibility of integrating biometric technologies into the Sri Lankan prison system. The study aimed to evaluate, how viable and effective biometric systems can be for identifying and managing prisoners in Sri Lankan prison facilities. This included reviewing past methods used for inmate identification, investigating the potential adoption of biometric technology, and examining any challenges or drawbacks, that may arise from its implementation. A mixed research method was used. A questionnaire survey was used to collect prison staff's perceptions and prison statistics were used also used. It also compared the current identification methods with biometrics systems in other countries. The study shows that biometric systems improve security by reducing errors and attempts of escape and automating identification for efficiency. However, they are expensive and raise privacy issues. Effective implementation involves pilot projects, engaging stakeholders, and training staff. Despite initial obstacles, biometric systems promise lasting benefits in prison administration and security.

Keywords: *biometrics system, biometric technology, prison, identification, traditional identification*

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Issues Related to Health Facilities in Prison Hospitals - A Case Study of Welikada and Bogambara Prisons in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines health as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. This concept is critical in the context of prisoners' rights, particularly their right to health. Inmates frequently suffer from severe physical and mental health issues, including infectious diseases, sexually transmitted infections, fevers, and skin conditions. Despite the longstanding presence of prison hospitals in Sri Lanka, such as the one established at Welikada Prison in 1941, there is a notable lack of empirical studies on the functioning and challenges of these facilities. This study specifically investigates the health facilities in prison hospitals, focusing on Welikada Prison, with a secondary reference to Bogambara Prison, prior to its closure. The study aimed to identify key issues in prison hospital management and assess the roles of administration and health staff in addressing these challenges. Using a mixed-methods approach, data were collected through surveys and interviews with hospital staff and administrators, and direct observations. The study found that while 44% of inmates reported satisfactory services, 60% highlighted inadequate sanitary conditions. Key issues identified include a shortage of medical facilities, insufficient medicine supplies, and an understaffed workforce, leading to significant challenges for inmate healthcare. The study also revealed that some prisoners were admitted without genuine health concerns, including political detainees occupying hospital space. The overcrowding in prison hospitals exacerbated the spread of viral diseases, further violating prisoners' rights. These findings emphasize the urgent need for effective management and improved healthcare services in prison hospitals, with particular attention to the role of counseling in addressing inmate health needs.

Keywords: *administration role, health issues, prison hospitals, Sri Lanka*

The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Social Media Monitoring: Assessing Effectiveness, Privacy, and Civil Liberties

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to understand whether AI poses any threat to privacy and civil liberties in tracking criminal activities on social media platforms, particularly Facebook and Instagram. Secondary data analysis of journals, government documents, and case studies from 2000 to 2024 was used to determine the state of AI implementation in social media monitoring, its effectiveness in crime prevention, and privacy issues arising from the technology. The findings show that the use of AI-based approaches has shown great potential in flagging suspicious activity that may be linked to the commissioning of a crime, while at the same time presenting the potential for privacy violations and civil liberties violations. Such peculiarities of the approach does not allow to strike a proper balance between the potential effectiveness of crime prevention measures and the protection of individual rights in the context of the digital environment. The findings emphasize the importance of well-understood asymmetric relationships, with rules and responsibilities to regulate AI surveillance on SMM. Based on the results of the study, it is proposed to specifically consider the creation of specialized anti-crime AI systems that can monitor citizens' behavioral patterns without infringing their right to privacy. The study calls for future research to continue to examine the societal value of more widespread deployment of AI surveillance.

Keywords: *artificial intelligence, social media monitoring, crime prevention, privacy, civil liberties*

The Importance of a National Criminal DNA Database for Sri Lanka: A Comparative Study

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Abstract

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is an organism's genetic material inherited from one generation to the next. DNA can be used to identify criminals with remarkable precision. Therefore, in forensic science, it is used as evidence to show who dumped bodily parts such as hair, bones, teeth, saliva, and blood at the crime scene. This study investigated whether a national criminal DNA database can increase the efficiency of Sri Lanka's criminal justice system. Although DNA evidence is admissible in Sri Lankan courts under the current legal framework, still a national DNA database is not available. The objective of this study was to identify the significance of maintaining a criminal DNA database in Sri Lanka by analysing the features of DNA databases in the UK, the USA, and Germany. This is a qualitative study based on secondary data such as academic articles, journals, academic documents, books, and other related cases. According to the analysis, national DNA databases have been established in several countries such as the UK, the USA, the Netherlands, Australia, Germany, Finland and Norway and many other countries are developing DNA database systems. The findings indicate that the national criminal DNA database in the UK, the US, and Germany enhances the efficiency of the country's criminal justice system by facilitating quicker identification of suspects, reducing recidivism, and improving overall crime prevention efforts. Establishing a national criminal DNA database in Sri Lanka is crucial for enhancing the efficiency of the criminal justice system.

Keywords: *national criminal DNA database, comparative study, efficiency, criminal justice system*

PLATINUM PARTNERS



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CO-PARTNERS



TECHNICAL PARTNER



MEDIA PARTNERS



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