

ABSTRACT

“Internally Displaced Persons” term is not new to Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka had seen several reasons for displacement since independence. The ethnic violence has made communities displaced from their traditional home land. The largest IDPs movement was in July 1983 and since then the country’s all communities have been faced with IDP problem. The IDPs in different communities are facing a different set of problems and barriers in return. The country’s political situation is also unstable and is fuelling the IDP crisis. The political parties are selfish and military is without a proper goal. The political regimes are playing to the hand of the LTTE terrorists. The LTTE and the Government are least bothered about the civilian community and waging war to achieve their selfish goals. The NGOs are playing a major role in fighting poverty, human-rights, education, and resettlement in an un-conducive environment. The government forces and LTTE are blamed for human rights violations. The NGOs’ staff are at the receiving end by paying price with their precious lives.

The Puttalam district IDP camps are selected for the study. The primary data was collected from IDPs, Government agencies, non governmental agencies, Military officers and other persons involved with IDP issue. The study highlights the IDP and their problems and barriers to return to their homeland. The IDPs are faced with problems of different dimensions and the agencies role is reducing the problems and barriers. The government’s role is feeding, housing, education, employment, safety and resettling are discussed and recommendations are made for IDPs safety, welfare and resettlement. The outcome from the study is generalized to the IDPs of Northern and Eastern provinces.