

## ABSTRACT

Successful conclusion of Sri Lankan internal conflict posed many acute challenges to the GoSL to consolidate both military and political gains. Rehabilitation and reintegration of 12000 Ex - LTTE members who surrendered at the end of the war was on the top of the national priority list. GoSL established 24 rehabilitation centres in different places and established the Bureau of Commissioner General of Rehabilitation by a special gazette order to manage the process. A careful categorisation of ex-combatants into three different groups was done to select ex-combatants who deserved to undergo the programme. Rehabilitation and reintegration is a process that would give the civilian status to ex-combatants and allow them to re-join the main stream society with required financial and social strengths. Reintegration in fact is acquiring the civilian status and a sustainable employment. Therefore, the whole process is thought to be social and economic by nature with an open time frame. Ex-combatants are a vulnerable set of citizens in a country due to a number of reasons. Therefore, effective rehabilitation and reintegration of them has a direct impact on the national security. The process has to create a social, economic and most importantly an ideological change in these ex-combatants to consolidate military and political gains. The study is an effort to unfold the dynamics of Sri Lankan efforts that they have made to mainstream the LTTE ex-combatants. Sri Lanka underwent a 30 year long internal conflict since 1983. This thirty years long conflict has drastically changed the social dimensions of the people of Sri Lanka. Therefore, the study holds an important task to evaluate the post-conflict efforts of the government of Sri Lanka to incorporate the LTTE ex-combatants by all means available to the state. The main context of the study carried a hypothetical observation with situational background that Sri Lanka's rehabilitation and reintegration program has not been sufficiently effective for a sustainable peace in the country. The fundamental question the study addresses was that, 'whether the rehabilitation and integration model has been able to transform ex-combatants to start a new life or has it been sufficient enough to achieve the required end state?' To investigate and address such an important observation and question, the investigation followed the mixed method primary research technique that provided both qualitative and quantitative data through questionnaires. Two different sets of samples were identified that included both the civilians and LTTE ex-combatants. Sample-I included all 311 LTTE ex-combatants living in the area,

whereas, Sample-II included the whole civilian population that was around 17112 as a sampling frame. Further, by using non-random convenience sampling a desired sample size was taken to get the responses separately from ex-combatants and civilians. The evaluation of the Sri Lankan experience in both rehabilitation and reintegration practices allowed the researcher to conclude his study. The anomalies in the practices of the Sri Lankan experience were identified and the researcher presented few recommendations to improve the rehabilitation and reintegration strategies. Research findings indicate that Sri Lanka model of DDR+R process has been a unique application due the nature of the termination of the war fighting as the SLSF recorded an outright wing against the LTTE. Researcher narrows the analysis of the findings to main three variables those seem critical for a SP to propose his recommendations i.e. post reintegration economic security, social reintegration and endurance of psychological reintegration. Researcher brings in a couple of proposals related to economic, social and psychological drives and suggests a close review on the overall process to close the gaps.

Furthermore, the study submitted an appraisal to academically better understand the story of the Sri Lankan efforts to rehabilitate and reintegrate the post-conflict LTTE ex-combatants.

**Keywords:** *Disarmament, Demobilisation, Rehabilitation, Reintegration, Sustainable peace.*