

ABSTRACT

Sri Lanka was plagued in a protracted and violent civil war from 1983 until mid of 2009 and this conflict caused destruction where over 100,000 were died and nearly 190,000 civilians were displaced. Still, the society is experiencing the outcomes of war. The disabled soldiers can be identified as a symbolic remembrance of such bitter experience of our nation. According to statistics there are approximately 22000 disabled soldiers in the country.

The main objective of the research is to assess the effectiveness of vocational training on rehabilitation of differently abled soldiers. Explore the factors which could be gained by vocational training and see the relationship between the factors which could gain by vocational training and rehabilitation process are the other objectives with a view to recommend measures to improve the present system of vocational training' if necessary. The survey method was used to identify the affect of existing vocational training on rehabilitation process. 110 differently abled Soldiers in "Ranaviru Sewana" at Ragama and Ranaviru Resource Centre were selected using simple random sampling method to carry out the survey. Mental relaxation, Social Recognition, Financial Benefits, Knowledge and Skills which could influence vocational training and Vocational Training itself were considered as independent variables and Rehabilitation Process as dependent variable. Structured questionnaire was used to gather primary data from the sample. Interviews guided by an interview guide for key appointment holders and observations of differently abled soldiers' behaviors were used to find out quantitative and qualitative data which were relevant for the analysis. SPSS 16.0 was used to do the scientific analysis: coefficients and correlations analysis of variables. The findings of this study were evaluated through reaction of respondents, learning from Vocational Training courses, and behavior changes after Vocational Training courses. Finally, it was found that Vocational Training positively affects rehabilitation process. Researcher has found that awareness of the importance and the benefits of vocational training are very low among the differently abled soldiers and their regiments as well. Also has found that there are certain lapses in selection procedure when selecting differently abled soldiers for vocational training courses, counselling and post training monitoring system of vocational training.

Key Words: Rehabilitation, Training, Benefits, Relaxation, Recognition, Skills