

ABSTRACT

Social media provides more sophisticated way to influence the general public to develop trends and direct the force towards. Around 90 percent of the organized terrorism on the Internet takes place through social media. The Tamil diaspora's emergence has been facilitated in recent years by the LTTE as well as technological advances that have fostered communication and quick dissemination of information. Under several potential threats in today's context of National Security in Sri Lanka, Non-traditional threats through technology driven new media, including social media is to be most concerned about.

The prime aim of the study is to look into possibilities of occurrence of breach of National Security by adversaries through social media by exploiting the prevailing democratic political situation into consideration and make recommendations to mitigate effects. Secondary objectives are to identify emerging potential threats or major national security breaches possible through social media for National Security of Sri Lanka, to explore the dimensions of social media which influence on the National Security of Sri Lanka and to trace whether there is any relationship between the dimensions of social media and the threats of national security.

According to literature review, it is found that there is an impact of Social Media on National Security of Sri Lanka. Independent variables of Collectivism, Power of Monitoring and Power of bargaining are selected for the study model and Informational Security, political Stability and Socio-economic Stability are considered as the dependent variable of the model. Both primary (Survey and in-depth interview) and secondary data collection sources are used to collect data. For the selection of respondents for formal survey, Simple Random sampling was used for survey with 30 officers from tri forces. Three (03) Social Media and National Security specialists are selected by using judgmental sampling method for in-depth interview.

It is concluded that social media is a very crucial factor in present context for posing a threat to national security of a country. In addition to above, it is concluded that social media is a strategic tool which can achieve many advantages such as collectivism, power of monitoring and power of bargaining. It is also concluded that social media can make a huge impact on national security by way of affecting political stability, informational security and socio-economic stability of Sri Lanka. In-depth interviews highlighted that social media is a crucial factor in modern days in Informational security, political and Socio-economic Stability which eventually affect the National Security of a country.

Key Words: Social Media, National Security, collectivism, political Stability