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ABSTRACT

Economic security is one of the key elements in assurance of national security of a country. Sri Lanka being an island nation and tourist paradise, proper connectivity between other countries could boost the number of inbound tourist into Sri Lanka. Hence, the concept of aviation hub in Indian Ocean Region (IOR) as a Sri Lankan national strategy was formulated to achieve and assume economic security in the country. The most of the scholars have identified Sri Lanka as a geopolitical strategic location in the IOR. Hence, investors have ample opportunities in investing the aviation related fields like flying, aviation services and training sector. Therefore, increment in number of aviation approved maintenance organizations were initiated. Catering the projected boom in the industry and aviation technically qualified youths were inducted to the industry in a rapid rate from these institutions. This study is an outcome of the data collected from the sample of 204 (35.66 percent) students from total of 572 student population (from 2014 to 2016) of training institutions. It was observed that 40 percent of aviation technically qualified youth have already employed in different field. They have given up all the career development ambitions in aviation sector and only 12 percent of students from the sample is employed in aviation sector at present. Hence, this study is a qualitative research to explore the existing barriers. This is to retain the technically qualified youth in the aviation field and an analysis of the causes for unemployment. Further, this study covers an analysis of the aviation regulations pertaining to aviation technical field, pre-requisites for aviation technical jobs and job market opportunities. The stratified sample technique and theoretical base analysis have been used in this study. Feasible solutions for training institutions, actions to be initiated by Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka to arrest the situation and timely need of strategic national decisions for the sustainment of aviation industry have been proposed in the recommendations.

Keywords: National security, Economic security, Aviation hub, Unemployment, Strategic location, National strategy, Sustainment, retention.