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ABSTRACT

The study emphasizes to implement an utility system to establish Early Warning to prevent ethno-religious violence in identified hotspots in Sri Lanka with special reference to areas like ALUTHGAMA and MAWANELLA. Research questions were formulated to identify prevailing difficulties of having an Early Warning system focused on Conflict Prevention. Besides, using armed forces, government agencies and NGOs were questioned during interviews. The key objectives covered the identifying hotspots for conflicts, exploring utility system of conflict prevention, Early Warning and Early Response and benefits of having a system. Data gathered through the literature and the semi-structured interviews conducted from the security experts, specialists in Early Warning and Experts from Conflict studies. The same was analysed in a thematic platform and were coded according to the purpose. Conclusions were formulated by the findings of the literature review and data analysis. Ultimately, the contributors believed that Sri Lanka is highly vulnerable to ethno-religious violence. In fact, the situation requires continuation of strong mechanism to have community based EW in identified hotspots to prevent future conflicts. Therefore, having Early Warning system among communities is essential to mitigate the issues in the initial stages. Further, it is essential to utilize the field of study for the future research as well.

Key Words: Early Warning, Ethno-Religious Violence, Hotspots