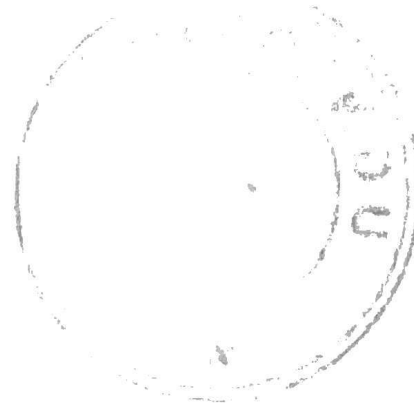


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ABSTRACT



Geographical location of Sri Lanka has given both advantages and disadvantages to the national security of the country. Even though, Sri Lanka does not have traditional threat so far, expanding of non-traditional issues can't be ruled out easily. Unquestionably, drug trafficking has become one of the serious non-traditional security threats despite the number of counter actions taken by the Government and other stake holders in various capacities. Concurrently, Synthetic Drug usage has become an emerging trend in the present context. Since it is a new culture, the knowledge towards the Synthetic Drug is less whereas effects to the society is very high. Therefore, researcher examined and explored the operational challenges behind the Law Enforcement Agencies in dealing with emerging trend on usage of Synthetic Drugs in Sri Lankan context by examining existing operational methods. Further, researcher has brought out some recommendations to implement effective operational system. Since this issue mostly encompasses the society, the survey method has been used and experts in Law Enforcement Agencies, policy making institutions and Synthetic Drug addicts were interviewed to collect primary data. The grounded theory and thematic analysis method facilitated the researcher to better analyse their opinions and subsequently test and compare their validity with available literature such as drug apprehension reports, journals and articles. Understanding the gaps between existing operational methods and their effectiveness and identify the limitations available in the enforcement environment and advantages of Synthetic Drug trafficking are the key findings of this study. Certainly, final recommendations will help to implement effective operational mechanism in the enforcement environment and this research study will help new researchers to derive new findings in order to find a new gap of this issue in future.

Keywords: Enforcement, Synthetic Drugs, Operations, Challenges