

## Paradise on Fire: Analysing Security Paradigm Shift in Sri Lanka (2020–2022)

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Sri Lanka was bankrupt and exposed to numerous insecurities by the mid of 2022. The insecurities in the past were commonly recognized as traditional military security threats (traditional security paradigm). However, the events that unfolded following the economic crisis have shifted the long-held traditional security assumption to the human security sphere. In this context, this paper aims to analyse, from the perspective of security studies, how the economic impact caused the emergence of diverse human security threats and how the perception of people changed about security in Sri Lanka. This qualitative research is conducted by applying the descriptive research method. The primary and secondary sources were used to identify the perspectives of the present-day security situation. The content analysis is used for systematically evaluating the symbolic contents of every form of recorded communication. The author identified five distinct fields: energy, social, food, health and political that contributed to the emergence of human security threats through the economic crisis. The study identifies that bad policies, mismanagement, corruption, bad governance, poor economy and the absence of other national policies led to the economic crisis. Further, the human security threats that surfaced in the field of energy, social, food, health and politics were identified as the by-products of the economic crisis. Reinforcing the human security threats, the Government that was entrusted to ensure the protection of the people has become a threat to the survival of its citizens thus causing a security paradigm shift from traditional to human security.

**Keywords:** *security paradigm, traditional security, human security, non-traditional security, economic crisis*