

## **A Study on The Legal, Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Dimensions of Post-Punishment situations of Drug Traffickers in Sri Lanka: Special Reference to Moratumulla police area**

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### **Abstract**

This study examined the post-punishment situation of drug traffickers in Moratumulla, Sri Lanka, within the broader context of the Mount Lavinia police division. Despite stringent legal measures aimed at deterring drug-related crimes, including severe penalties under the Poisons, Opium, and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, the phenomenon persists, particularly in densely populated and economically disadvantaged areas like Moratumulla. Through a mixed-methods approach involving archival data, interviews with law enforcement personnel and rehabilitated individuals and direct observation of police operations, the study explored the efficacy of current legal sanctions, rehabilitation programs, and community dynamics in reintegrating drug traffickers into society. Key findings highlight significant challenges in achieving successful reintegration, as evidenced by high rates of recidivism among rehabilitated individuals. Socio-economic factors, including limited alternative employment opportunities and familial involvement in drug trafficking, perpetuate cycles of crime despite rehabilitation efforts. Health issues, such as addiction to substances like methamphetamine, further complicate reintegration and necessitate comprehensive health interventions alongside rehabilitation. The study concludes with policy recommendations aimed at enhancing punitive measures, strengthening rehabilitation strategies, fostering community engagement, and improving law enforcement efforts to effectively combat drug trafficking and support sustainable societal reintegration. By addressing these multifaceted challenges, Areas like Moratumulla can mitigate the impacts of drug trafficking, reduce recidivism rates, and promote public health and safety within affected communities.

**Keywords:** *drug traffickers, rehabilitation, post-punishment situation, socio-economic factors*