

Forced Migration caused by an internal armed conflict in Sri Lanka: a possible reason for the Religious and Ethnic Violence after the war

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Sri Lanka has witnessed an internal armed conflict during a 26-year period. The root causes of the conflict are rooted for more than 50 years majority Sinhalese and Tamil community. Subsequent to the independence of Sri Lanka there have been several incidents which caused violence between both the communities. The final result was an armed battle between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Government of Sri Lanka. As a result of the ethnic conflict many people were displaced and many people were shifting for secure locations in the country to make sure that they are safe and that their regular life is not affected. Subsequent to the end of war in 2009, there were incidents of violence on religious minorities. Several major and minor incidents took place and which has again disrupted the ordinary cause of living in Sri Lanka in certain geographical locations. Certain reasons that were tabled were that the change of the proportion of the population in many geographical locations and the change of identities in many areas. This was one of the reasons to propagate violence on religious minorities.

The entire study will be based on secondary data that are available. Many studies have been conducted by many organizations and by analysing the statistics with government and other local civil society organizations an analysis would be carried out on the change of the demographics due to the war and population shift.

Subsequent to the war the national statistics survey has been conducted in the year 2012 and there has been changes in demographics. As this was the survey conducted after considerable period of time including the northern region of the country. There have been a considerable number of people who were displaced during the war and some people have returned to their original places of residence. Hence the displacement has been happened before 25 years the new generation has been living in the displaced location and they are not willing to move to their original places. Also, during the war many people were shifting to safer places in the country and that has created a different perspective of the communities.

The shifting of people to the majority Sinhalese dominated areas or migration to majority Tamil areas of Muslim areas have been viewed as problematic. The culture or the traditions of the geographical location is viewed as disturbed by the migration of people belonging to different religion or ethnicity. This has created people to look into the possibilities of

protecting the geographies and to protect their identities. The aftermath of the war and the displacements to the IDP camps and the people's migration during that period to safer areas has had an effect on the demography after the war.

There have been massive migrations to Puttalam District for a long time and many other Districts in the country and many of them have returned to their original places of living. There have been changes in populations in each District. However, the change of population is in a minor level. However, there has been a gathering of the minorities into one location or to one village to make sure that they are safe. However, even after the war the people would like to remain in the same manner as there has been very little trust building and relationship building between the people from different religions and ethnicities.