

ABSTRACT

TRANSFORMATION OF RETIRED MILITARY PERSONNEL INTO ECONOMIC ACTORS THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS POST MILITARY CAREER CHOICE: THE CASE OF SRI LANKA ARMY

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Sri Lankan Army soldiers retire at the active age group of 40-45. Most of them possess lots of experience, skills, knowledge and potentials which could be utilized to enhance the country's economy whilst providing them with meaningful employment opportunities. They could also turn out to be successful entrepreneurs. However, there is no realistic and scientifically drawn up mechanism in Sri Lanka to absorb them properly into the active labour force by utilizing their potential to the maximum. Thus, their skills, knowledge and potentials are underutilized which is a disadvantage to the country's economy in general and to them in particular.

Unlike in developed countries, in Sri Lanka, the issue of veterans' transition into successful civilian life has not yet been addressed by both researchers and policy makers. Besides, most of the researches undertaken by defence establishments rarely come into public domain. Therefore, this research has to follow models obtained from literature published in other countries, particularly in the USA and in European countries. While doing so, this research focuses on case studies done through random sampling techniques on Sri Lankan veterans' transition from military to civilian life. It also attempts to identify factors such as labour market dynamics in Sri Lanka and labour market policies for veterans in other countries. The findings of this research will draw the attention of relevant authorities in policy and decision making to develop strategies to incorporate veterans into country's development drive by making them effective economic actors

KEY WORDS

Sri Lanka Army, veteran, entrepreneur, economic development, economic actors