

## **RESTRICTED**

### **ABSTRACT**

The protracted conflict of nearly three decades in Sri Lanka came to an end by defeating the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels in 2009 militarily bringing unilateral victory to the Sri Lankan Military. The post conflict reconciliation since the conclusion of the conflict militarily has been in question though another decade has lapsed since the unilateral victory. The scholars have identified the root causes which had delayed the reconciliation process. In the meantime, there is no defined role for the Sri Lankan Military to perform in this reconciliation process apart from its classic role.

This study attempts to define a role for the Sri Lankan military to play in this reconciliation process based on the first-hand information collected from the personnel who are employed in the Civil Security Department (CSD) Barathipuram Project (Farm) Visuvamadu Mullaitivu using the Grounded Theory approach. The data analysis was based on data collected from focus groups from the project, the experts of the field of reconciliation, the present and ex-military commanders and policy makers. Having constantly compared the categories emerged during the data coding, a conceptual framework and three hypotheses in association with them were developed. The hypothesis found was proven during the hypothesis testing. Accordingly, a substantive theory was developed on the role of the Sri Lankan Military in post conflict reconciliation and the theory is to say that; "Relationships between conflicting communities will be built up in the process of identification and satisfying the aspirations of such parties through effective interaction of Sri Lankan civilian-military mechanism which in turn stimulates coexistence and reconciliation in the post-conflict context in Sri Lanka".

Based on the theory and the findings of the research, the role of the Sri Lankan Military was found defined. That is "The role of the Sri Lankan Military is to effectively interact to identify and satisfy the aspirations of the communities who were affected by the conflict to build relationships to stimulate co-existence and reconciliation in collaboration with civil administration system".

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Subsequently, recommendations were made to facilitate the Sri Lankan military to perform that role effectively. Those are; First, civilian administration and the military should promote and develop a civil-military doctrine to promote reconciliation in the post-conflict context, then a strategy must be formulated to identify and satisfy the aspirations of the conflicting communities giving prominence to aspects such as nondiscrimination, sense of security and belonging, in formulating such strategies, all the stakeholders are to be consulted, the Action Plan for Reconciliation and Co-existence is to be developed, attention must be accorded to apprise the general public and stakeholders of the reconciliation process with special references to the success story in the Visuvamadu project through printed media and attention must be paid to conduct research to identify the perception of the community with regard to reconciliation which is not covered from this research.

**Key Words:** Reconciliation, aspiration of the people, trust, interaction and role of the Sri Lankan Military.