

ABSTRACT

Retirement is by itself a challenge and post retirement obligations and unanticipated debacles are more challenging. With that understanding, the researcher undertook this study to explore the post retirement challenges encountered by the premature discharged other ranks of Sri Lanka Air Force and its impact on balance life. Some of the leading reasons for not being able to maintain a balance life are not finding a right employment after retirement, not being able to maintain the decorum and dignity what was maintained while in service, not getting sufficient income to manage domestic affairs and lack of higher or vocational educational training to be selected for recognized employment. This encouraged the researcher to conduct this study to explore the actual challenges that those prematurely discharged airmen encounters in the civil society.

Initially, the researcher conducted a comprehensive literature review to be aware of the challenges what soldiers of other contemporary armies in the world encounter after retirement and the methods and means what they adopt to overcome the same. For this the researcher referred statistical records related to premature discharge in SLAF, books, journals, Air Force orders, manuals, World-Wide-Web and other relevant readings. Having conducted the literature review, the researcher was able to discover the variables essential for this study and establish the research gap and thirst for this study. Moreover, this research was based on well-defined objectives, research questions and hypotheses.

The primary data essential for this study was collected from 100 prematurely discharged technical trades' airmen through a well-structured questionnaire using stratified sampling method. The questionnaire was prepared in accordance with the conceptual framework. All the collected data was then statistically analysed through SPSS 23 software. The researcher introduced a hypothesis and it was proven with statistical significance. In that, it was revealed that there is a strong co-relationship was existed in between ensuring balance lives and challenges encountered by prematurely discharged technical trade's airmen of SLAF. Having completed the study, the researcher proposed valid recommendations to be implemented with right justifications to ensure better post retirement lives for prematurely discharged technical trade's airmen who sacrificed the best parts of their lives to ensure the national security of this country.