

ABSTRACT

Sri Lanka Police was established as a state department to ensure law and order in the country. It was set up on 3 September 1866 with the mission to uphold and enforce the law of the land, to preserve the public order, prevent crime and terrorism with prejudice to none – equity to all. But, with regards to the contemporary status quo of the Police force in Sri Lanka, it is becoming apparent that the human rights of the citizens of the country, the very thing that the Police stand to protect, are threatened to an extent.

This is a study done to examine the role of the police where the human rights of the citizens of Sri Lanka could be violated by the actions of the police officers. It is apparent that scores of hundreds of cases are being filed at the Supreme Court and the Human Rights Commission, out of which, a greater fraction has a bearing against police officers. The research is focused on such human rights violations, their nature, and impact on the society and how to minimize such cases.

Human rights violations of the citizens and the police have to be examined, researched, find causes for such violations and find answers to minimize these violations. Because of that, human rights violations of the citizen by police and such violations of the police officers by the government is a research problem which has to be researched giving prominence to find answers.

The core objective of the research is to investigate and find out the main reasons for human rights violations by the police, their nature and impact to the society. The specific objectives of the research are to investigate why do such violations occur and what makes the police officers violate the human rights of the citizens, to evaluate the impact on the country by such large scale violations and how to minimize them, to study that the laws prevailing have in coping with the perpetrators and the need for any amendments to the relevant laws.

To protect the human rights of the citizens of Sri Lanka, the rights and dignity of the members of the police department have to be protected. Their salaries, due promotions, and welfare have to be increased. They have to be properly trained and educated. Their performances have to be assessed and those who do best must be rewarded and promoted. If this practically happened, the role of the police in Sri Lanka is definitely identified by Sri Lankans and worldwide as a force doing great service to the country which maintains law and order to the last letter.