

ABSTRACT

UPLIFTING THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF PRIVATE SECURITY IN SRI LANKA; A CASE STUDY IN THE WESTERN PROVINCE

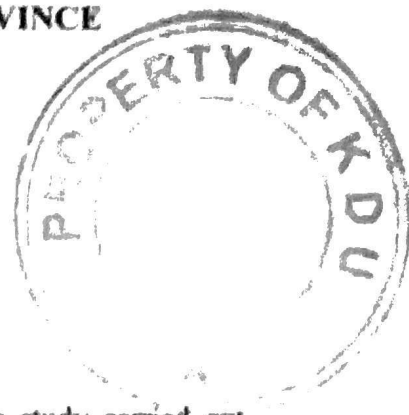
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This research put forward the results of a comprehensive and rigorous study carried out within the identified theoretical framework to learn about the internationally accepted professional standards of Private Security Personnel, identify the current levels of the professional standards of the private security personnel, identify the root causes for the lack of professional standards and find solutions as to how to uplift such standards of private security personnel in Sri Lanka. In almost all the countries, private security personnel have outnumbered the state police force. Private Security Personnel in Sri Lanka also has even outnumbered the strength of Police force which shows that there is a demand for the private security personnel in Sri Lanka. Further, there are specific duties that they have to perform requiring highest level of professional standards. Sri Lankan Private Security also has evolved since 1950s. From 2007 to date there has been a steady annual increase in the number of new security companies and the number of private security personnel. Job of private security personnel is the second highest demanding job in Sri Lanka in 2019. However, further research on assessing the current levels of the professional standards of private security personnel in Sri Lanka is needed in order to uplift the professional standards and to extend a better outcome. Research includes the background to the study and related literature where definitions, history, evolution, theories, comparison of the professional standards of the private security personnel in other countries and challenges in improving and maintaining the professional standards of private security personnel.

This research study has taken more of a qualitative approach as it focuses on a segment of population in Sri Lanka. Professional security personnel was taken as the dependent variable and internationally accepted professional standards derived from secondary data were taken as independent variables in formulating a questionnaire to conduct a primary survey to achieve the objectives of the study and to find answers for the research questions. Information of the Interviews and observation also helped confirm the findings of the primary study. There are important findings highlighted out of the primary survey. Sri Lankan state regulation act governing private security has its inherent lapses. Passing grade five is the minimum or entry level educational qualification to become a private security personal whereas in the countries it is the high school diploma or secondary school education. There is no specific age limit to become a private security personal and no specific training standards and evaluation of the same. Non practice of a Security Guard's licence is another important finding. Previous employment of the majority security guards have been in the sector of farming or being a labourer. There are important recommendations proposed at the end of the research such as revising the state regulatory act with accepted level of educational qualifications, age limit, training standards and evaluation. Introducing the security guard's licence that represents as a blueprint of the standards of private security personnel is also an important recommendation that need immediate attention of the policy makers of Sri Lanka.

KEY WORDS

Private Security, Professional Standards, Private Security Personnel, Security Guard's License

