

**THE IMPLICATIONS OF MILITARY RECRUITMENT  
(SL ARMY) TOWARDS RURAL ECONOMY:  
A CASE STUDY ON  
ANURADHAPURA AND KURUNEGALA DISTRICTS  
(FROM 2020 – 2022)**

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### ABSTRACT

In the contemporary Sri Lanka, military personnel are very much important for their tasks and role according to the situations arises. Past few years government and Army Headquarters have done the great effort to recruit military personnel for fulfill the shortages of Military establishments, Regiments, Units/Battalions and so on. This was very hard target and also a huge expenditure when the national budget and defence economy are concerned in Sri Lankan context.

Some critics argue that, this is an utterly wastage of national economy when there is no any war or any conflict situation in the present country. Therefore I was persuaded to start this research to inquire the real situation and impact of military recruitment drive and its advantages /disadvantages for the national economy and state security, especially concerning the Sri Lanka Army (SLA).

This research mainly focused on qualitative and some statistics also used to showcase the final argument and its findings. Therefore this research can be considered as mixed method research. The data collection has done by using military personnel in various establishments and specially referencing the Kurunegala and Anuradhapura districts and its Grama Seva (Gs) divisions as well. Those two districts are mostly contributed to the defense recruitment field and therefore the impact of its can be significantly visible at there as well.

Furthermore, military recruitment drives in the rural areas are vital for their rural livelihood, social co-operation and rural economy as well. It would further enhanced to the national economy, social security, state security and an emergency, job opportunities for unemployment's and so on compared to expenditure of the military recruitment drive. On the other hand these functions are very essentials for carried out every year to fill-up the strength gap of all the security forces and armed entities because of normal and compulsory retirements will be taken placed on every day.

Military is the strength of existing government and state security. No one can deviate it for at any cost or reason. If there is an emergency situation military personnel can't be created and produced at once and instance. Therefore, it should be ready before the requirement arises. Thus required military personnel, tradesmen, professional bodies should be recruited according to the short-fall, retirement percentage and considering future forecasts. The other greater problem of military recruitment drive is suitable and qualified candidates are not willing to engage with armed forces because of military training, lack of freedom, island wide operations, limited salary and income, social constraints and several other factors so on.

To overcome those critical problems newly recruited personnel should undergo special courses, training programmes, induction programmes and sometimes attached to national universities and technical colleges for ongoing study programmes. However, army Headquarter and senior military commands are very much keen on retaining military personnel up to certain period of time in military establishments and backgrounds. Most of the professional bodies are trying to leave or absent without leave (AWOL) from the Army mentioning and highlighting numerous reasons and facts.