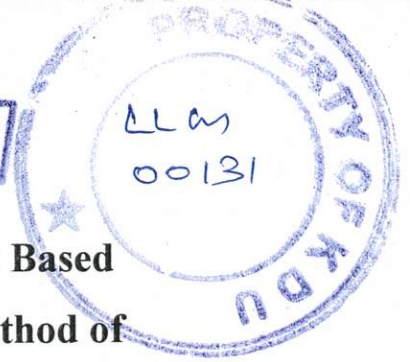


PERMANENT REFERENCE



**Study on the Effectiveness of the Community Based  
Corrections Mechanism as an Alternative Method of  
Sentencing in Sri Lanka**

*by*

**Dasanayaka Mudiyansele Dissanayake**

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# **Study on the Effectiveness of Community Based Corrections Mechanism as an Alternative Method of Sentencing in Sri Lanka.**

by

*D.M. Dissanayake*

## **ABSTRACT**

This dissertation discusses the effectiveness of the Community-Based Corrections mechanism in Sri Lanka. The community-based corrections were introduced to Sri Lankan criminal justice system as an alternative for the sentence to imprisonments or suspended sentence of imprisonments or fines which can be imposed on offences punished by imprisonment less than a period of two years and does not have a minimum term of imprisonment. The review starts with analyzing the theoretical background, history and modern development of the sentencing and the concept of community corrections it also evolved into comparatively reviewing two concepts of imprisonment and community-based corrections as an alternative for it. Thereafter, it discusses the community-based corrections system in Sri Lanka with especial attention is given to its practical aspect. This study revealed that the main objectives of the community-based corrections act have not been achieved for the simple reasons that overcrowding of prisons, declining imprisonment of offenders of minor offences and sending them for community-based corrections, reduction of reconviction and recidivism, and rehabilitation have not been achieved at a satisfactory level for the last 20 years. The dissertation has identified that the lack of knowledge and the misconception about the Act and its process, non-compliance of the provisions of the Act, failures of the Community Corrections Department and lack of human and physical resources are the main reason for the ineffectiveness. No considerable amendments to the Act are necessary. Finally, the study has recommended improving and increasing awareness among the judges, lawyers, and the general public; issuing guidelines for magistrates to properly implement the provisions of the Act; establishment of an organized institution to implement community corrections orders; appointing qualified officers and organize proper training for them; providing due facilities for the officers for effective implementation. A further recommendation has been made to amend the schedule to the Act.

**Keywords- Community based Corrections, Sentencing, Imprisonment, Rehabilitation**