

Editorial

The Sri Lanka Journal of Development Administration (SLJDA), published by the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration, is allotted to studies in administrative, economic, management, development, social and political disciplines. This volume features eight articles that present contemporary perspectives from practitioners in public management, offering valuable insights into several critical topics. The reviewed articles in this collection span a range of disciplines, contributing to the broader spectrum of public management knowledge and practice.

The featured article by Ms. Premathilaka and Prof. Madhuwanthi examines the challenges male science teachers face in delivering Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) education in Sri Lankan public schools. Using a phenomenological approach, the study identifies four key challenges: student curiosity, inadequate teacher training, curriculum limitations, and parental resistance. The article underscores the importance of addressing these obstacles to ensure the effective delivery of SRH education and promote the well-being of students.

Ms. Gamage's article explores Participatory Action Research (PAR) as a key methodological approach in development planning. PAR empowers marginalized communities through collaboration and knowledge co-creation. The article examines its theoretical foundations, historical evolution, and practical applications, presenting PAR as an alternative to traditional methods in research. It emphasizes PAR's role in fostering social justice and inclusivity while addressing challenges in its implementation.

Ms. Kularathne's article examines the challenges faced by state-owned business enterprises in Sri Lanka, many of which incur significant financial losses. Poor governance emerges as a primary factor contributing to their underperformance. The article advocates for reforming these entities as an alternative to privatization, highlighting the importance of further research to identify and implement effective reformation strategies.

Ms. Liyanage's article examines alternative strategies for poverty alleviation in Sri Lanka. The study highlights key challenges and opportunities within current poverty alleviation programs and proposes four policy recommendations with corresponding implementation tools. Furthermore, it

presents a comprehensive framework aimed at improving the effectiveness and sustainability of poverty reduction efforts in the country.

The featured article by Mr. Ranathunga, Prof. De Silva, Emeritus Prof. Amarasinghe and Prof. Kularatne explores co-management as an effective participatory approach to address challenges in small-scale fisheries (SSF) caused by ecosystem dependency, economic globalization, and climate change. It explains key requirements for operationalizing co-management as strong local leadership, cohesive community networks, robust local organizations, indirect regulations, and ecological knowledge.

Ms. Chandrasiri's article examines the agro-food industry's environmental impact and the need for green supply chain management. Highlighting the industry's significance and controversies, the author presents a strategic framework for sustainable practices using a systematic review of related journal articles. The proposed framework addresses environmental hazards in farming, processing, transportation, and warehousing, offering guidance for sustainable operations.

The article by Ms. Liyanage and Dr. Arandara examines the impact of inspections on understanding and compliance with the Factory Ordinance, utilizing data collected from a group of factories, some of which had been during the last 3 years. The findings reveal that inspections significantly enhance both understanding and compliance with the ordinance, with inspected factories showing higher scores in both areas.

Ms. Balasooriya's documentary examines the evolution of administrative literature over the past fifty years, focusing on the Sri Lanka Journal of Development Administration (SLJDA). Marking half a century since training for administrative officers began, the study highlights the journal's role since its launch in 1970. By analyzing SLJDA's publications, the documentary provides insights into the growth of administrative thought and learning.

“Research is seeing that everyone else has been seen and thinking what nobody else thought”.

Thus, I believe the pile of articles compiled in this volume will provide insights for public policy decisions in diverse disciplines.

Professor W. Indralal De Silva

Emeritus Professor in Demography, University of Colombo