



SRI LANKA'S TAMIL IDENTITY CRISIS AND THE ROLE OF THE SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT

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Abstract:

Sri Lanka secured independence from the British suzerainty a year after Pakistan-India freedom in 1947. There are two main ethnic groups in Sri Lanka called Sinhalese and Tamil. The relationship between the two main groups has been fragile since liberation. The British managed Sinhalese and Tamil relationship to maintain their dominance, but soon their departure, clashes broke out between the two groups. Three factors created cleavages between the two groups which profoundly dented Sri Lanka's unity: language, ethnicity, and non-permanent residential status. Many Tamil households were displaced and lived as refugees in other areas and countries. Historical records suggest that Tamils have been native to Sri Lanka for centuries. Therefore, the central objective of the study is to evaluate the challenges faced by Tamils including regional autonomy and post British Raj identity. Furthermore, the aim is to examine the role of Sri Lankan government in solving issues of Tamil community.

Key Points: Tamil, Sinhalese, Regional autonomy, Sri Lankan Government, India

Introduction

The dispute between the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has been going on for about three decades. Given the intensity and longevity of the conflict, it can be considered one of the longest civil wars in South Asia. Also called the Tamil Tigers, the LTTE wants an autonomous state for the Tamil minority on the island. After a period of vicious military animosity, the Sri Lankan government guaranteed in May 2009 that it had defeated the dissident group and killed its pioneer Velupillai Prabhakaran. Either way, the group still had the capacity and the ability to continue carrying out guerrilla-style attacks against the Sinhalese-dominated government.

For lasting harmony, expert believe that the administration should find a political response to the conflict that has plagued the Sri Lankan nation since its freedom. In twenty-six years, conflict, nearly 85,000 people have died, hundreds of thousands have become internally displaced and many more have been injured physically and psychologically. (Höglund and Orjuela 2011)

Sri Lanka is one of the most sought-after tourist destinations due to its beautiful beaches, so that in addition to human losses, the economy has suffered losses of billions of dollars. The damages have not been inflicted by one side only, UN have accused the Sri Lankan military and the LTTE of human rights violations, including the extortion, abduction, and use of child soldiers. UN has also called upon Sri Lankan government to probe human rights violation. (Aneez 2017)

A 2001 official census shows that the original ethnic population of Sri Lanka is Tamil (9.4%), Sri Lankan Moore (7.9%), Sinhalese (82%). In the post-independence years, during the colonial period, the Sinhalese people, who resented the British support for Tamils, deprived the Tamil migrant workers of Indian tree planting and made the Sinhalese the official language. (Höglund and Orjuela 2011) In 1972, the Sinhalese government renamed the country of Ceylon and made Buddhism the country's main religion. As ethnic tensions escalated, the LTTE was created in 1976 under the control of Velupalilla Prabhakaran and he began campaigning for the Tamils homeland in the East and North of state, where most Tamils lived. In 1983, the LTTE attacked on army convoy, 13 soldiers killing and rioting, killing 2,500 Tamils. (Höglund and Orjuela 2011)

Based on the different dynamics, and above discussion, this research would seek to emphasis on the following central questions: What are the challenges faced by Tamils including regional autonomy and post British Raj identity? Furthermore, the research would also try investigate the following sub-question to develop an in-depth examine of the issue: what was the role of Sri Lankan government in solving Tamil community issues?

Hypothesis

H1. Sri Lankan government seeks to empower Sinhalese community and deprive Tamils of political rights.

H2. Sri Lankan government attempted to resolve Tamil problems when Tamil group engaged in militant activity against government.

H3. Identity is one of the major conflicts between Tamils and Sinhalese, Indian Tamil demanding their identity since Sri Lanka independence.

Literature review

This section is relevant to study presenting the literature review. This literature review focused on Tamil identity, ethnicity and post-colonial developments.

As per Kumar's views that Tamils language is their identity. Tamil an official language deemed in 1987 and it was great step towards address identity conflict in Sri Lanka by Sri Lankan government. In Sri Lanka Tamil identity politicized between two ethnic group Tamil and Sinhalese and state divided into north, east south and west land. National integration did not promote or addressed by political elites of Sri Lanka. (Kumar, 2018)

Though, Tamil ethnic identity has not been similar throughout past or from 1948 when Sri Lanka got independence from British colonial. At the time British ruled in Sri Lanka, Tamil claimed that religion was the main value of Tamil ethnicity instead of language. Tamil did not convert to Christian religion; they were quite free to adopt western culture and value as well as learn English to close work with British ruler. However, Hindus activist (those belong to Tamil ethnic) started their individual education institute like Schools in English syllabus. Tamil mostly belong to Hindu religion and local called they are Indian Tamils. (Canagarajah, Migrant ethnic identities, mobile language resources, 2012, p. 20) Sharika Thiranagama tried to examine relationship of different public can only be understood how ethnicity, language and social culture were and intertwined in postcolonial and colonial Sri Lanka. (Thiranagama, 2011) After British departure from Sri Lanka, two separate ethnic groups started fights for their survival. Tamil were in minority and demanded identity since post-colonial (Adriana, The Lankan Civil War, 2014).

Most Sinhalese are Buddhists and they speak Sinhala. Buddhists belong to the Indo-Aryan people contained 74 percent of the Sri Lanka total population. Geographically they reside in all area of the state except the province of north-eastern. Tamil belong to Hindu speaking who is Indo Dravidian language. Tamil comprised of 18 % of the total state population. Tamil ethnic group mostly living in the eastern area of the Sri Lanka, some famous area as Kilinochchi, Mannar, Jaffna, Vavuniya, Trincomalee, Batticaloa and the Mullaittivu. (Valatheeswaran, Rajan, 2011)

Ethnicity and ethnic identity are especially challenge for those people who are living out of Sri Lanka as they have obsoleted their traditional wisdom of territoriality, boundaries and social cohesion. For such ethnic groups, identity is only fluid. It is needed to constantly recreate according to one's who changing contexts, purposes and interests. (Canagarajah, Implications for Language and Ethnicity, 2012) Ethnicity and identity have received mush theoretical and empirical attention in the field of Social science. Both authors focused on social scientist work practically in field to find gross genuine issues draw their findings to concerned institution to address and solve identity and ethnicity conflict. Social sciences would give better results if social scientist give maximum time to field of ethnic conflict area. (Jaspal, Cinnirella, 2012)

Ethnicity and identity are a very important features of being human and for his/her identity, it is a manifests differences between different communities, ethnic groups and societies. It is reflecting diversity within the society who internal stability and harmony defends on how diversity of ethnic is accommodated in a diverse framework of the society and state. Various frameworks include those law makers in democratic or non-democratic state designs constitutional which must guarantee the guard or protection of ethnicity and identity. (Hashmi, Majeed, 2015) In case of ethnic conflict base a result of migration and altering ethno-demographical stability in separate states, country of ethnic migration may express unhappiness at bilateral levels and international concerning the human rights of migrants. (Z, 2017)

Author mentioned that values and norms very important in ethnicity and identity, if we care these issues then ethnicity can be harmful and creating ethnic violence within society, we pursue to describe answer on values, norms, and favorites using respondent's demographic and economic features and to evaluate the numerical significance of identity who based on ethnic. (Desmet, 2017)

According to 1981 population census discovered the following groups of ethnic. Major ethnic founds Sinhalese 74 percent and second large group found Tamils of Sri Lankan were 12.6 %, Indian Tamils 5.6 p%, Sri Lankan Moors 4 %, Burghers 0.3 %, Malays found 0.3 % equal to Burghers ethnic and others ethnic people found 0.2 percent. In 1956, identity issue raised when Act of Sinhalese Language passed by Sri Lanka government because Sri Lankan were dominant majority in parliament.

The constitution of 1972 gave a high rank status who accelerated more ethnic conflict between Tamils and Sinhalese ethnic group. Before two years of Sri Lanka independence Tamil representation was 40 percent in government judicial service and Tamil representation in in Ceylon Civil Services was 33 percent as well as 31 percent students enrolled in Universities of Sri Lanka. Sinhalese were dominated in governments and they tried to appoint most Sinhalese in all government positions even Sinhalese eliminated Tamils those serving in government different departments. (Adriana, The Sri Lankan Civil War, 2014) Author investigates Sri Lanka



population from 2010, he reported that 21 million population. Sinhalese one of the major ethnic group of Sri Lanka population, in 2010 Sinhalese reported 74.1 percent of the total population. Tamils was the second major ethnic group in Sri Lanka with the percentage of 12.1, some Tamils called in Sri Lanka by the name of Indian Tamils because in Indian area Tamil Nando most of the populated site by Tamils. In the historically view. (Samarasinghe, The Impact of the Ethnic Conflict, 2012).

Tamils were migrated from India in mis of 19th century, when Sri Lanka part of India and controlled by British Raj. People were migrated for the purpose of work and enterprise meanwhile British evacuate Sri Lanka in 1948 and they handed over Sri Lankan community. Conflict between Sri Lankan Sinhalese and Tamils still exist even many loses bared by both ethnic groups since country independence. Author also described in 2010 population census religion wise population and he found Buddhist 70 percent Hindus were 15 percent, Muslim seven percent and Christian 7.5 percent of the total population. His research also focused on Sinhalese political dominancy on Tamils because ethnicity playing very important role in politics, due great number of politics and play card using ethnic based Sinhalese ruling in Sri Lanka democracy since 1948. Reference required

However, the investigation of social elements of personalities and ethnicity guesses a practical information, intersubjective gatherings, and an encounter of otherness which, thus, must be accomplished through generous hands on work. From a separation, it is anything but difficult to overlook one's character and make speculations about ethnic personality, basic it and building it into something fascinating. It is likewise simple to relate ethnicity to the possibility of otherness and keep on considering oneself all inclusive, as a result of one's prevailing position. Notwithstanding, when one consolidates hands on work into one's examinations, such thinking turns out to be increasingly troublesome. (Bigo, 2014)

Past ethnic character binds to an activist or fanatic association, especially if the association is accepted to be a piece of an outside outgroup, is probably going to elevate open feelings of dread. A "solitary wolf" aggressor might be excused as a solitary, confined danger, while binds to a bigger association infer that others hold comparable, extraordinary convictions. Help from individuals from the gathering, for example, specialized or strategic help, may likewise prompt progressively serious, destructive attacks. Therefore, a speculates connects to any association hints a more prominent level of risk and is bound to be marked as fear mongering. However, the nature of the gathering itself is an extra factor to consider. Local fanatic associations, having a place with an ingroup, won't evoke a similar degree of belittling as associations having a place with bunches apparent to be remote "others." The rationale of our contention is like what has been laid out over: the outgroup homogeneity impact recommends that viciousness coming from a radical gathering is symptomatic of general threatening vibe exuding from individuals from that gathering. Applying an ethnicity to the association at that point structures two measurements to consider from the viewpoint of intergroup predisposition: ethnicity and radical gathering connection. We contend every blend has a recognizable impact. Applying the white ethnicity to the gathering connection confounds the social order, obscuring the lines among us and them. (Salehyan, 2018)

Religious or Ethnic issues are most broadly depicted to be the significant highlights of inside conflicts in the Third World. However, inside the conflicts of Third World are too mind boggling

to even think about being seen distinctly as ethnic or strict ones. Strict or ethnic conflicts alone can't incorporate the difficulties and multidimensionality of inward conflict. The Darfur issue in Sudan, for instance, which has been a significant worry to the worldwide network as of late, is seen as "ethnic and innate," yet it is likewise seen as "financial" and "segment." Drought, overpopulation and desertification are among the reasons for conflict as inborn migrants look for water for their domesticated animals. The 2007 defiance in Niger was financially persuaded, in which the radicals focused on a more noteworthy monetary advancement and an offer in the district's mineral (uranium) riches. Soaring costs in nourishment just as in wares, including raw petroleum, frequently cause revolts in poor nations in the Third world. (Kim, 2010).

In the article authors tried to explain that postcolonial issues in Sri Lanka particularly he tried to collect facts and figures from gross roots and concerned authentic department. His study founded in Sri Lanka three big ethnic groups Sinhalese, Moors and Tamils. According to his data collection he mentioned his article Sinhalese population (75 percent), Indian Tamil (4 percent) and in last four percent Moors ethnic community found in Sri Lanka. After population data collection, he comprised population with religion and as per author findings major ethnic group was Sinhalese and religion wise Sinhalese 70.1 percent second largest religion found Hindu 12.6 percent, third largest ethnic community was Muslims 9.7 percent, Romanian Catholic religion found 6.2 percent in last 1.4 percent Christian religion people were there.

In Sri Lanka around 30 years civil war between Sinhala government and Liberal Tamils Tiger of Ealam (LTTE), the Sinhalese were in majority in government and parliament of Sri Lanka and postcolonial ethnic issue among these two communities of Sri Lanka. Imported that Sinhalese is accepting to Indian Tamils even we study history Sinhalese came into Sri Lanka for work and agriculture when Sri Lanka was a part of India/subcontinent and Britishers were ruling there. British evacuated Sri Lanka in 1948 and handed over local people of Sri Lanka. On the time of independence Sinhalese ethnic community were in majority and immediate they form government and they did not accept Indian Tamil as Sri Lankan. They started campaign against Sri Lankan and tried to letdown in every filed even education, parliament and society. Education played a key role to lead ethnicity in Sri Lanka, Sinhalese tried to eliminate Tamils role in universities, and they banned Tamils newspapers and printed textbooks who accelerated ethnic conflict through education and tried to negative image of Tamils ethnic through education test books. (Levi, 2019).

Sri Lanka government introduced repressive act before 1983 even Sinhalese tyranny and anti-human act Tamils fledged politically and demanded their rights on each political platform. Due to ignorance and ethnic conflict by Sinhalese, Tamil one group turned to rebel and they started militant fight against Sri Lanka government. During 1983 to 2009, Muslims and Tamil were living in East and North suffered tyranny from both ethnic groups even government did not pay neutral role and supported Sinhalese. Sri Lanka government continually discriminated among the citizens and Sri Lankan government use both violent and political repression. (Aaronson, 2016). In the start of independence and the beginning of civil war (who started around 1983), Tamil ethnic demand changed from peaceful effort to gain speaking language equality to vicious demands to the separate Tamil community and done secession by Sri Lanka state. Author tried to explore the conflict between Tamils and Sinhalese and identified gaps and reason those accelerated ethnic conflict and deprived Tamils from their identity. Author also tried to elaborate

the issue of Tamils militant group, he argued that Tamil militant did not formed in a single or without reason. Tamil militant group formed when Tamils ethnic continues neglected from Sri Lanka government. Tamil community demanded their rights especially identity rights. Sri Lanka consider each Tamil as Sri Lankan either they came from India and they called Indian Tamil due this reason Tamils identity affected and create conflict among society and especially both major ethnic groups Tamils and Sinhalese. (Obriain, 2012). Author described that identity is a fundamental right of ethnic as well she also agreed identity is the major issue in most ethnic and racial conflict. According to her research identity-based issue sharply accelerated in 19th century. Due to political and ethnic based conflict in Sri Lanka killed of thousands, around half millions of people forced from their homes, business and destroyed their property. (Mushtaq, 2012).

Ethnic based conflicts were forms due to instability in politics. Multiethnic communities or groups forms beginning of new century or mid of twenty centuries. Ethnicity is constituting most dynamic issues and troublesome in society. Even though established model of academic on ethnic conflict have been shown to be inactive or insufficient. (Mohammadzadeh, 2016).

Silva Investigates Tamil identity issue since 1948. He detailed describe Tamils migration era mid of the nineteen centuries. He explores that India could play role for Indian Tamils who were migrated from India. India didn't allow enter to Indian Tamil during civil war around 1980. India firstly support to Indian Tamils and provided surgical training trainings and intelligence services to Tamil tigers during civil era in Sri Lanka. After that Sri Lanka government talked with India and demand to stop support Tamils Tigers even India support to Sri Lanka because Tamils declared war against Sri Lanka. India changed decision and become alliance to Sri Lanka against Tamil Militant group. Author also described that Indian Tamil faced multi challenges in Sri Lanka i.e. language, identity economic. Sri Lanka government deliberately make laws against Tamils and created ethnic conflict between Sinhalese and Tamils. (Silva, 2012).

Research design (Methodology)

This research approach for the scope of study this study is qualitative, although in this research through analytical method tried to get realities. The course of this investigation follows a descriptive path; therefore, this research is qualitative in nature. Secondary data consisted of research books, magazine articles, periodicals, reports, and news. The contribution of news and opinion articles was also taken as an important aspect of this study. In addition, the data collected was presented through descriptive tools, such as bar charts and pie charts. These diagrams and data were interpreted to arrive at a final analysis combined with secondary data analysis. Both analyzes and their results were used to reach a conclusion for this study along with the answer to the research questions.

Historical Background of the Tamil and Sinhalese issue

Sri Lankan is one of eighth south Asian nations, it is just 31 Km away from India surrounded by the Indian Ocean (See Fig.1). It is a tiny island as it covers an area of 25,000 square miles, and its current population is around 21 million. In Sri Lanka, if population is classified in terms of religion, there are approximately 70% Buddhists, 12% Hindus, 10% Muslims and 8% belong to other religions (See Fig. 2). However, in terms of ethnicity, Sinhalese and Tamil are two major groups, these two groups are also known as Sri Lanka's 'Two Major Ethnic Groups' and their ethnic issues boosted after postcolonial.

A large number of them are Sinhalese, speak Sinhala language, and belongs to largest religious group Buddhism. According to them they are descendants of North Indian and traveled to Sri Lanka about 2500 years ago, while the other group Tamils claim that they are the progenies of the South Indian community and migrated to Sri Lanka for plantation and trade in the 19th century. The third largest ethnic group in Sri Lanka is Muslim and they have small segments like Malays and Burghers. (Rather and Jhariya, 2016, p. 2).



Figure 1: <https://www.stepmap.com/map/southern-asia-cyE0voyJVO>

According to Sri Lanka official census of housing and population 2001, Sinhalese ethnic group were 1,524,3193 (81.9 percent), Sri Lankan Tamils 802,521 (4.3 percent), Indian Tamils 927,105 (5 percent), Sri Lankan Moors 1,483,564 (8 percent), Burghs 39,809 (0.2 Percent), Malays 62,903 (0.3 percent), Baharta 2454 (0.0 percent) and others 27,346 (0.1 percent), whereas total 18600807 population reported. (Census, 2001)

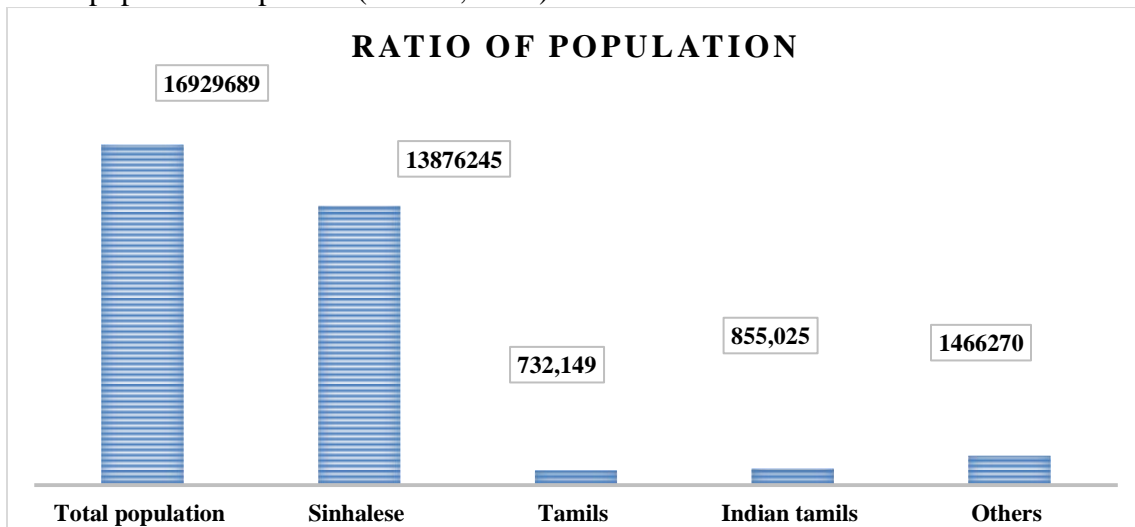


Figure 2: Sri Lankan Population ratio

Sri Lanka's Major Ethnic Groups

As stated above there are two main ethnic groups in state: Sinhalese and Tamils. The Tamil people are mostly settled in the two sides of Sri Lanka (northern and eastern) (See fig. 3). Tamils are Hindus and speak Tamil language. They constitute 12-15% of Sri Lankan population. The status of Indian Tamil is not contemporary, it had been a matter of controversy prior to independence among Sri Lanka and colonial rule of India. Before and during the period of freedom, Sri Lanka was unwilling to admit the identity of Tamil Indians as Sri Lankans, mainly because Tamils had no permanent record in the state. As a result of ethnic conflict, Indian Tamils have faced statelessness identity problems. (Rather and Jhariya , 2016, p. 3). The British ruled over Sri Lanka lasted for almost 100 years. The major group in Sri Lanka is the genealogical Sinhalese. They are settled in the central and southern parts of Sri Lanka. (See Fig.2 & 3) They are Buddhist by religion and speak Sinhalese language. They form majority as they are about 70% to 75% of Sri Lankan total population.

During the British rule, the Tamil community was very prominent in Sri Lanka and the main reason was that the Sinhalese group was highly educated, which gave them edge over the Tamils. Therefore, the Sinhalese occupied government jobs and they also started constructing buildings for schools and colleges. Höglund & Orjuela capture an excellent analysis of Tamil-Sinhalese conflict. They maintain:

“The war in Sri Lanka was the result of a range of failures to prevent armed conflict. Ethnicity was politicized during British colonial rule (1815–1948) through, for instance, the practices of census-taking and representation in the Legislative Council. The post-independence political system, however, lacked a mechanism for the protection of minority rights. The Sri Lankan Tamil minority (about 13% of the population) consequently lost the somewhat privileged position it had held under the British and was gradually marginalized in a state dominated by the Sinhalese majority (74% of the population). Language reform, which made Sinhala the sole official language, university admission reform working to the disadvantage of the Tamils of the northern parts of the island, the granting of a special place to Buddhism (the religion of the Sinhalese) and resettlement of landless Sinhalese in Tamil-dominated areas all contributed to the sense of Sinhalese domination and Tamil marginalization. This caused grievances which gave rise to the Tamil demand for self-determination in north-eastern Sri Lanka. Agreements negotiated between Tamil and Sinhalese political leaders regarding language politics and devolution of power in 1957 and 1965 were never implemented”. (Höglund and Orjuela 2011, p.23)



Figure 3: Sri Lanka Civil War map, <https://www.sutori.com/story/copy-of-sri-lankan-civil-war--P5rNRC2XC83fgK6kvtn2rEnM>

Furthermore, after independence, Sri Lanka adopted democratic parliamentary system. Due to the majority, Sinhala people succeeded in forming a government. Once they came into power by virtue of their majority, they adopted discriminatory policies towards the Tamils. Sinhalese racially discriminated them, forbade them for jobs and other government activities and businesses. (Gamage, 1993). As the majority of the Sinhalese gained power, they formulated policies of their benefit and interests. To weaken the identity of the Tamil people, the first Sinhalese government in the year of 1956 decided Sinhalese language as an national language in state, while English was the first language. (The official Language Act, 1956) Höglund & Orjuelahas summarized ethic conflict in these words,

“The Sri Lankan Tamil minority (about 13% of the population) consequently lost the somewhat privileged position it had held under the British, and was gradually marginalized in a state dominated by the Sinhalese majority (74% of the population). Language reform, which made Sinhala the sole official language, university admission reform working to the disadvantage of the Tamils of the northern parts of the island, the granting of a special place to Buddhism (the religion of the Sinhalese) and resettlement of landless Sinhalese in Tamil-dominated areas all contributed to the sense of Sinhalese domination and Tamil marginalization”.(Höglund and Orjuela 2011, p.23)

In 1970s, the Sinhalese government banned Tamil medium literature including newspapers, journal, magazine, books, and films to restrict the identity of Tamil people. Government stopped Tamils foreign exchange students with Indian universities. Following the Sri Lankan government's move, political clashes between the Tamil and Sinhalese groups increased. As a result, the Tamil community started protesting and demanding their rights from the government. (Natarajan, 2012)

From 1950 to 1970, the Tamils continued to demand their rights, but after 1970 the Tamil people formed a military group that gradually got strength and started fights against the government in different places of Sri Lanka, claiming their rights as their own. At first, the Tamils demanded rights by peaceful means, but once they realized that they were not able to secure, they took up arms against the state's policies of racial discrimination.

At the same time the Tamil National Anthem (TNA) continued its political activities and continually demanded its autonomy in the Sinhalese Government in the Tamil majority areas. People living in other Tamil countries also supported TNA. They even helped the Liberation

Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) group. In 1960, Indian Tamils feels that they were deprived from the basic needs of life and identity, they garneted demand to Sri Lankan government for separate state which name "Tamil Eelam". To achieve the target of separate homeland, Tamil youth protested against government of Sri Lanka, police and civil administration.

LTTE Demand: A Separate Homeland

In 1976, when the LTTE understood that their identity was being undermined, they demanded a separate homeland from Sri Lankan government, meanwhile surgical war between the LTTE and Sinhalese increased after that demand. Vampire Prabhakaran was a leader of LTTE, he formed the militant group in Tamils and started surgical action against government. He was also against the non-militant Tamils community who were not in the favor of militant war. Thus in 1990, LTTE occupied many areas of Sri Lanka and in those areas shadow government started to govern. The Eelam civil war: from 1983 to 2009, civil war started between the Sri Lanka and Liberation Tigers, Sri Lanka government called army to fight against militant group. During this civil war along with the Indian army, launched an operation against the Tamils militant group called Operation Pawan.

International crises group is working to prevent conflict worldwide, in 2011, group researched on the topic "India and Sri Lank after the LTTE". Group reported, in the decade of the 1970s, Indian spy agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), began assisting, training and arming LTTE to build their capacity to carry out terrorist acts against the installation of the Sinhalese and government. (Report, 2011) The LTTE became a zealous and feared group in the 1980s because of its activities and its ability to carry out attacks on such a scale. In addition, the LTTE has established close ties with the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. (Richards, 2014) This created new problems for India which decided to withdraw its support for Tamil Eelam. In 1987, India agreed to an agreement with the government of Sri Lanka to send peacekeepers to the island. (Indo-Lanka Accord, 1987) Indian forces did not stop fighting and reached the conflict until its logical end but began fighting with the Tamils against the forces of the Sri Lankan government. In 1990, Sri Lankan President (Ranasinghe Premadasa) forced to India to withdraw. Indian Prime Minister (Rajiv Gandhi) at the time of the deployment of the peacekeepers, was killed by an LTTE suicide bomber in 1991. In 1993, Premadasa suffered a similar fate. In the late 1980s, the LTTE began suicide attacks. The first such incident occurred on July 5, 1987, when an explosive truck hit a building with Sri Lankan soldiers inside. Separately

It is pertinent to mention that Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students was formed in London and Manchester. This organization become a very supportive movement for Indian Tamils. They provided logistic and financial support to Tamils and meanwhile they raised voice against Sinhala ethnic based violence on international platform.

Around one-fourth Tamil populace lives outside of outside of Sri Lanka. The majority of the Tamils diaspora dwells in United Kingdom, Canada and India. While diaspora Tamils support LTTE endeavors, the LTTE often utilizes terrorizing to make sure about the majority of its assets from overseas. (Vaughn 2011) They also accumulate financial resources through ransom, kidnaping and other such tactics. The United State department says the LTTE has additionally utilized altruistic approach, like to the Tamils Rehabilitation Organization, as a visible for raising help. Such types of funding have made the Tamils Tigers one of the one of the richest activist

associations on the planet. (Vaughn 2011) The Congressional Research Service published in January 2008, CRS said the LTTE keeps on raising an expected \$20 to \$300 million every year notwithstanding ongoing decreases in overseas financing. (Vaughn 2011)

The Sinhala Act 1956

After 8 years of Sri Lanka independence formal official language was changed to Sinhala from English through Sinhala only bill in 1956. Language issues remained potential issue after Sri Lanka independence, but it got hope when SWRD Bandaranaike (Sri Lankan Prime Minister) highlight it its party moto and raise voice for Sinhala as national language during its political campaign. After victory in elections bill was passed and Sinhala was declared Sri Lankan national language. Tamil community protested and blamed that this act deliberately passed by Sinhala politicians, this decision as in their view it was to demolish their identity and separate status in country. (Coperahewa, 2009)

The Policy of Standardization of 1970s

In Sri Lanka, students get admission in universities on the base of competency till 1969 and Tamil were leading in number of students. As per admission statistics of 1969, Tamils were around 12% of country population but were successful to get admission in 50% of medical faculty and 48% in engineering faculty. In 1970 government implemented “Policy of Standardization”, as per policy provision of admissions, job and residential facilities were as per population representation. The “policy standardization” initiated, basic purpose of the policy was to stop Tamils students’ admissions in Sri Lankan universities. Actually, Tamils community were literate, and their literacy ratio was higher than Sinhalese. During British Raj they were most closed with British administration due to their higher education and English language expertise. After policy each student mediatory to qualify entry test in Sinhala language instead of English. This was acted to minimize and restrict probability of admissions, jobs and other facilities for Tamils. Tamil considered it a planned move to base on discrimination to neglect them. (Eckstein, 2018)

In 2001, LTTE announced that they are ready to agree on peace settlement with government. As United State was supporting and providing aid to Sri Lanka for peace building in country that why US stressed government not to agree on peace settlement and solve this matter through military operations. United State shows regional autonomy and hegemony on underdeveloped Sri Lanka in peace settlement process between LTTE and government. (Wikipedia, n.d.)

The role of Sri Lankan government in solving Tamil community issues

Over the years, apart from using force, the Sri Lankan government has also adopted many peaceful policies to end the conflict and overcome the Tamils complaints. In the next section, we discuss these policies.

Constitutional amendment and concession for Tamils

On 14 November 1987 Sri Lanka government passed thirteen amendment and gave some benefits to Tamil community. To vow Tamils further, government added the Tamil language to the national languages. Furthermore, the strength of the North and East areas was increased as the Tamil community was predominant in these areas. In the regard, the North and East provinces were merged to create one province to make Tamils to run governance in these areas.

The prime objective was to minimize aggression of Tamils and close civil war. Through this amendment Sri Lankan president (Mahinda Rajapaksa) ensured the protection of Tamils rights and their authority in areas where they were in majority. Experts believe this was a step towards solution of their problems and enhance their presentation. (Sivakumar, 2013)

Peace talk between LTTE and Sri Lanka Government

While the government has introduced reforms to make the Tamils understand that they belong to Sri Lanka, with the mediation of Indian government, the Sri Lankan government agreed for peace talk. In July 1985, Indian government held peace talks at Thimphu, Bhutan. It was a peacebuilding measure taken by the Sri Lankan regime to alleviate the grievances of Tamils. A representative group of the LTTE accepted the invitation to speak of peace and decided to hold talk with the Sri Lankan government. During the discussion, the proposal was discussed to end the bloody conflict. Sri Lanka urged the Tamils to surrender to end the civil war, but the Tamils flatly refused. The Lankan government even offered to give a little more authority to the Tamils in their regions and to end the civil war, but the Tamils also refused this offer and presented their own demands which were refused by the government, so talks failed. The Tamils' demands included independence, civil rights and territory for their government. (Thalpawila, 2016) Until 2006 both the Tamils and government conducted six rounds of peace talks but all failed.

But the way the LTTE was defeated in 2009 was dramatic. Although until 2006, LTTE was in a strong position and had won all fights against the government. Unique, it has its navy and naval ships used to navigate its weapons purchased worldwide. Its main sources were overseas support and manpower, but from 2006 its workforce began to decline. The Tamils declared conscription and included child soldiers who carried out suicide bombings. In addition, the government has adopted a grand strategy to reduce foreign funding of the LTTE through diplomacy with foreign nations and the freezing of assets of the LTTE. (Layton 2015) In addition, Colombo has improved its budgeting by relying on the generosity of the Chinese to strengthen its counter-terrorism strategy by raising armies and procuring weapons. These grand strategies ultimately stifled the strength of the LTTE, and it failed to continue the conflict. (Layton 2015) Thus, the Sri Lankan government's impressive approach entirely annihilated LTTE.

The government also used other tactics to crack Tamils' unity. In this connection, in late 2004, a senior LTTE military leader (Colonel Karuna), absconded, carrying with him somewhere in the range of 6,000 LTTE members and truly harming the LTTE's help base in Eastern Sri Lanka. The mass surrender gave urgent knowledge that offered profound experiences into the LTTE as a battling association.

Sri Lanka's military triumph and the completion of one of the longest civil wars is a great step forward and good omen for the people of Sri Lanka. Nonetheless, there is one prerequisite for ending it completely: full respect for human rights violations. Gain on the battlefield can be lost unless there is respect and honor from both parties involved in the conflict. The Sri Lankan government must respond to and investigate the violations, as do the Tamils. This will lead to much needed reconciliation in Sri Lanka. It will help those affected by the conflict.

Summary and Conclusion

In this article, we have tried to discover the causes of the conflicts between the Sinhalese and Tamils. We examined the steps taken by the Sri Lankan government which caused the Tamils' uprising. We also tried to scrutinize the policies of the Sri Lankan government to resolve the

conflict. Finally, we discussed how the Sri Lankan government needed 26 years to enter into conflict, mainly through the use of force. We chiefly used secondary literature to perform empirical analysis.

Among the main findings, we learned that since independence in 1948, Ceylon has suffered from the rise of ethnic violence between Tamils and Sinhalese. This issue has more than damaged the Tamil identity and the social fabric of the island nation. In addition, we have discovered that even though a decisive military operation ended the conflict in 2009, it caused many miseries for the people of Sri Lanka. We have noticed that over 80,000 people have died and many more have been injured.

We have also noted that, although a military solution has been found, the issue of the independent identity of the Tamil community has not been resolved. It has the potential to erupt again mainly because a group from the Tamil community expressed dissatisfaction with the group of Tamil activists and were unable to secure their rights. It is the first duty of the democratic state to take responsibility for all citizens and guarantee their rights.

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